

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

GOVERNMENT LOANS TO IRISH ECCLESIASTICS.

IN the course of the debates last year upon the Irish Church Bill, Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Chichester Fortescue stated it to be the intention of the Government to propose, at an early period, a measure enabling the various ecclesiastical denominations in Ireland to borrow money on easy terms of the Government, for the purchase of glebes, and the erection of glebe-houses. Although the intimation, when, in the first instance, given by Mr. Gladstone occasioned no little surprise, it was not necessary to refer to it in the progress of the debates. On the Liberal side of the House there was an anxiety to say and do nothing which might damage the *prestige* of the Government or hinder the progress of the great measure which was then under discussion. The matter was, however, plainly dealt with elsewhere, and, if we are not misinformed, Mr. Gladstone was made aware of the fact that any such proposal would occasion the deepest dissatisfaction, and would be met by the most strenuous opposition.

In the course of the present Session the question has been more than once put to the Government whether it was still intended to introduce such a measure, and the answer has been that the purpose was not abandoned. June, however, passed, and it did not make its appearance, but now, at the very close of the Session, when opposition is most difficult to be organised, and when, most naturally, everybody had given it up, it is suddenly brought in, read a first time, and put down for a second reading within a few days. Those whose duty it is to watch, on behalf of the Nonconformist body, the character and incidence of the various ecclesiastical measures brought before Parliament, are perfectly well aware of the necessity of even "sleeping with one eye open" in the latter days of every Session of the Legislature. That is the time when, but for trained vigilance, almost anything can, in the small hours of the morning, be pushed through. Many watched to see whether this Bill would be placed on the notice paper. They didn't expect it, but they thought it a possibility. It is now there. It has been read a second time, and it now depends mainly upon ourselves whether it shall make any rapid progress.

The Bill is a bad Bill, and one that, after the settlement of the Irish Church question, should never have been introduced into Parliament. It

is not even an honest Bill, for it will work, just as the Education Bill will work, not to the advantage of a sect. Fair and open on the face, it is dictated by sectarian sympathy, and will end in sectarian aggrandisement. The Bill recites that "it is expedient to afford facilities for obtaining loans for the erection, enlargement, and improvement of glebe-houses, and for the acquirement of land for glebes in Ireland." It is therefore proposed that loans may be granted by the Commissioners of Public Works to ecclesiastical persons in Ireland, such ecclesiastical persons meaning "any archbishop, bishop, clergyman, priest, curate, or minister of any religious denomination whatever." The Bill furthermore authorises, not only the lending of money for such a purpose, but the lending it for the repayment of any debt that may now exist on any glebe or glebe-house. The money lent is to be secured by mortgage, which is to be repaid by annuities of five pounds per cent. for the term of thirty-five years, which annuity will discharge both capital and interest. That is to say, as money is found to be worth five per cent. at interest alone, the ecclesiastics borrowing upon these terms will, at the end of thirty-five years, get their glebes and glebe-houses for nothing.

Before touching upon the details of this Bill, we may at once enter to it a preliminary objection. The State detached itself last year from all connection with ecclesiastical bodies in Ireland. It ceased to control, to patronise, or to encourage them. It had been found, from experience, that its meddling, and the way in which it had meddled, with the religious affairs of the people, had produced nothing but social anarchy and political discontent, and had even endangered the integrity of the Empire. It was therefore determined, for once, to do an act of great national justice. While the act was yet incomplete, an endeavour was made to attach to it certain apparently generous conditions. There was a strong party in favour of "concurrent endowment," as well as of handing the glebes of the Irish Church over to its members for nothing, of paying the debts upon them and so on. All these and similar proposals, were, however, felt to be out of harmony with both the spirit and the purpose of the measure, and were rejected as decisively by the Legislature as they had previously been condemned by the people.

Now, however, we have these proposals substantially revived, and revived by the very Government that resisted virtually similar proposals last year. For, if this Bill be anything, it is a Bill for the concurrent endowment of certain sects in Ireland. It is true, in the first place, that the endowments are euphoniously called "loans," but, according to their terms, they are substantially gifts, even if the "annuities" should be paid to the end; while, as a matter of fact, nobody expects the payment of these annuities will be enforced. We have had Irish "loans" before: how many of them have been repaid?

But, in the second place, in order to judge of the real character of this Bill and its effects, we have to look at the condition of ecclesiastical bodies in Ireland. We find, in the first place, the Episcopalians, with glebes and glebe-houses not only already existing, but with more than they want or can want. Indeed, the Legislature, last year, took possession of a pretty large por-

portion of the glebe lands, and still left the Episcopalian Establishment with some that, in their changed circumstances, they will be more anxious to sell than to keep. It is true that there are debts on some of these properties, and the clause in this Bill which gives power to pay debts out of money borrowed may have reference to these cases. But the Church Body can, we imagine, effect this, and effect it without the interference of the Government.

For whose benefit, then, can this Bill be designed? In order to answer this question we have to look at the condition of the principal ecclesiastical body in Ireland. This is the Roman Catholic. Now, the Roman Catholic priests have church edifices and they have congregations, but they have *not* glebes or glebe-houses. They are anxious for them; they have complained of the want of them, and now the English Government is virtually going to make a present to them of just what they want. In effect, although not in name, this Bill will simply make a present to the Roman Catholic body in Ireland of several hundreds of thousands sterling. It is, of course, on its face a Bill "for any religious denomination whatsoever," but the Episcopalians do not need it; nor, we believe, do the Presbyterians, who generally have their "manse," and the Congregationalists and Baptists would not soil their hands by touching it. It is for the Roman Catholics alone that it is devised, and for their benefit mainly that it will be carried into operation.

We profoundly regret that such a measure as this should have been brought in at all, and especially that it should have been brought in at such a period of the Session. It is a measure calculated to deepen a distrust that has already been painfully enough excited, of the ultimate policy of the Government as a whole. Upon this, however, we need say nothing more. Read, as the Bill was yesterday, a second time, it is no doubt impossible now to prevent its passing into law. Under the trustworthy guidance of Mr. Candlish many members, however, filed into the division lobby against it. They were not successful, and the probability is that no material amendment can be made in Committee. So much the worse; but, nevertheless, these things are hard to bear, and it is to be hoped that we have seen the last of their kind.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE question of the week, the settlement of which will be productive of the most serious consequences to the Establishment, is the decision given on Saturday last in the case of Sheppard v. the Rev. W. J. E. Bennett. Mr. Bennett was prosecuted at the instance of the Church Association, for holding and advocating doctrines with respect to the Eucharist which were at variance with the formularies of the Established Church. In his paper in the "Church and the World," and in his "Plea for Toleration," he had expressed sentiments which seemed to accord rather more with the doctrine of the Church of Rome than with that of the Church of England—whatever the latter might be. While Mr. Bennett, in a subsequent edition, modified his original expressions upon this subject, there still remained enough to mark the great and indeed irreconcilable difference between his own views and those held by the Evangelical party. He believes in an actual change of the elements during consecration; he believes in the objective presence of Christ in them; he believes that Christ is present in them, and is to be adored through them as they appear on the altar.

This is not "Transubstantiation," but it is divided from that doctrine only by a metaphysical distinction. The question arose whether Mr. Bennett's view is in accordance with the formularies of the Established Church. The Dean of Arches, in his elaborate judgment of last Saturday, decides that they are, and not only that they are, but they are the legal meaning of the formularies. Mr. Bennett made no appearance at his trial, either personally or by counsel, and was acquitted in his absence. The case now goes up to the Privy Council Committee. Perhaps no case which has ever been put before that body will have carried with it such immense issues. For, if Mr. Bennett's doctrine be really the doctrine of the Established Church, then it follows that all the clergy should preach it. Anything contrary to it is contrary to law, and any clergyman preaching against it is preaching against the doctrine of his Church. Now, if anything is known, it is known that the whole of the Evangelical party repudiate this doctrine. Their views upon this subject are in harmony with the views of all Protestant Nonconformists. They believe in a "subjective" presence—in a spiritual influence dependent upon the state of the communicant, but in no change of elements, in no objective or actual presence in the bread and wine itself. The Dean of Arches, however, has decided that these views are wrong, and therefore illegal. We refrain from speculating upon what they will do in case the Dean's decision should be confirmed by the Privy Council Committee, as we refrain from speculating upon what the High-Church party will do in case it should be reversed and declared to be wrong. Either way the consequences must be of very great moment. If they do not involve secession on one side or the other, they will involve a terrific deterioration of conscience, and with that of moral and spiritual power.

The Education Bill has passed its second reading in the Lords after a debate of only three or four hours, and has passed not only without a division, but with special applause from the Conservative benches. If nothing had been known of this measure before, such a circumstance would have been sufficient to stamp its character. Whenever were the Lords known to pass any measure favourable to real religious equality, without the friends of religious equality having to rap at their doors over and over again, after repeated and contemptuous rejections? What did the Lords do with the Church-rate Bill? What did they do with the Qualification for Offices Bill? What have they done with the Universities Bill? There never has been a measure which they, who are opposed, on principle and on system, to every Liberal measure of any kind, have so delighted to receive as this Education measure. It is true that it contains a ballot clause, which, in its original form, might have afforded some protection to the squire and priest-ridden ratepayers of small country parishes, but which, having been made an "open ballot," is now of little if any use. Even this, however, the Duke of Richmond proposes to strike out, and no doubt he will succeed in his proposal. Nor have we any hesitation in saying, that, stubborn as the Government seemed to be in insisting upon the retention of this clause when it was under debate in the Commons, it will not risk the final passage of the Bill by holding its own opinion against the Lords' objection. It will emerge from the Upper House a Bill of the character which their Lordships are delighted to honour, and as such it will pass into law.

Reference has frequently been made during the late discussions to the actual feeling of the Methodists upon this question, and only on Friday night one member quoted the Methodists as in favour of the continuance of the denominational system. The position of this body was fairly tried at the first meeting of the Conference now assembled at Burslem, when the Rev. John Bedford, an ex-President, moved a resolution in favour of the increase of Wesleyan day-schools, as such, requesting the Conference, at the same time, to institute inquiries with a view to the establishment of such schools wherever possible. Mr. Bedford, however, like many others, had misjudged the sentiment of the Wesleyan body. He was opposed in a vigorous speech from Mr. Isaac Holden, while the Rev. William Arthur—a name of greater power in the denomination than Mr. Bedford's—moved an amendment, not in favour of denominational education, but simply declaring against the secular system. The debate went on, and there seemed to be no prospect of union or agreement, when the Rev. Mr. Hall, the late ex-President, rose to express his surprise that there should be any attempt to force such a discussion. Mr. Hall said:—

All through the year the Education Committee had been intermeddling with the question, which he maintained they had no right to do, and if rumours were

accurate, something had been done on the subject of Wesleyan education which was very pernicious, and calculated to betray their interests as a great Protestant body. He maintained that Mr. Arthur's view of what occurred in 1848 was borne out by Connexional documents, and he held it that the present was a time for their lay friends to interpose. Their original principles were that national education should be religious and anti-Popish. What was done in 1848? When they were in communication with the Government a year or so before, they only accepted Government grants by the decision of the Committee at that time, and afterwards by the Conference, upon condition that as soon as the Government proposed its system for aiding Popish schools they should have full opportunity to object. That was the voice of the Methodist people. Incidentally, just prior to their meeting, it leaked out that the Government had so far yielded to the Papists as not to enforce the Authorised Version, which led to an earnest discussion, at the close of which it was agreed to build the Normal Institution. There was no resolution to the effect that they would go in and be partners with Papists in receiving national grants; and from that day to the present not a word had been said to their lay friends when in grave and serious Connexional deliberation whether they would be parties to Papists having their schools supported by State aid. He could not be a party to an unfaithful abandonment of their old protest; and he could not sanction conduct on the part of some by whom Protestantism was being betrayed.

When the Irish Education question comes up for discussion, those Methodists who so jubilantly favour the denominational system, will perhaps remember Mr. Hall's words. But this discussion shows, how surely, if not rapidly, the character of Methodism is changing. It is broad where once it was narrow, liberal where once it was almost intolerant. The Liberal party—and there is a strong one—in the body are making their influence felt, and by-and-by will no doubt possess a predominant power. They are, however, as all minorities are, in a difficult position, and such as to deserve, although not perhaps to need, all the moral help that can be given to them.

The proposal made by Dr. Ball to include in the English census questions relating to religious profession was happily defeated yesterday afternoon. The division was a narrow one, however, and hence the Lords may be encouraged to try their hands at an amendment. If so, and they should succeed, we shall not be out of danger for some days yet to come. The Scotch Census Bill, in which, also, no returns of religious profession are required, will share the fate of the English. On the whole, we are inclined to think that we are safe, but we are never quite safe until both Houses of Parliament have held their last sittings, and gone off for their holidays. May that happy time be delayed not one day longer than is necessary!

THE RELIGIOUS CENSUS OF 1851.

Once more Mr. Horace Mann, in consequence of the revived objections to the Religious Census of 1851, feels called upon to justify in the *Times* the accuracy of the statistical returns he was then called upon to put in shape. He points out that the inquiry undertaken in 1851 related to the provision for religious worship and the extent to which the means provided were made use of, and that it was not an enumeration of professed adherents to the different sects. Although he does not share, except upon statistical grounds, in the objections made to the latter form of inquiry, Mr. Mann ventures to submit that the results to be obtained from it are of immeasurably less importance than those to be obtained by the plan adopted twenty years ago. If, however, as seems probable, the course then followed is not to be again pursued, it is obviously all the more desirable that the only source of information on the greater subject should not, through mere prejudice, be carelessly and causelessly discredited. Mr. Mann proceeds to give reasons why, in his firm opinion, the objections that have been taken rest on no substantial basis, and that the aggregate results of the Census of 1851 may be thoroughly relied upon. He says:—

Of course, the testimony of a compiler on behalf of his own work must be received with hesitation and some drawback, especially if, in a case like this, it be true, as alleged, that he was animated by an ecclesiastical bias. Nevertheless, his evidence may not be without its value; and as it happens (since the point must be noticed) that, instead of being "an active Dissenter," he was a very passive and eclectic Churchman (whose unofficial inferences from the tables were by no means acceptable to Nonconformists), possibly more weight may be attached, by members of Convocation, to the circumstance that he is necessarily much better acquainted than the critics with the checks which existed against inaccuracy, and that he spent the best part of three years in testing and digesting the returns and employing every practicable means of making the results trustworthy. Not, however, to rely too much on the evidence of this description, I may perhaps be allowed, while still avoiding a detailed reply, to call one important witness and to expose one prominent fallacy.

1. The important witness is the present Bishop of Winchester, who appears to have done what very few,

if any, of the other objectors have done—i.e., compared the official with an independent inquiry, which enabled him to corroborate the Census statements so far as they referred to the Church of England in the diocese of Oxford. At first, no doubt, when under the impression that his own data indicated an attendance of 117,431, while the number stated by the Census was but 98,410, his lordship naturally expressed grave doubts of the accuracy of the entire report; but when it was perceived that the official enumeration showed 147,362 Church attendants on the Census Sunday, he at once admitted that there was no material difference between this number and the number which his own reporters mentioned as the average attendance. It may, I suppose, be fairly assumed that the difference, however immaterial, was not to the discredit of the Census; and it is only reasonable to infer, in the absence of proof to the contrary, that the method which insured so near an approach to accuracy in the diocese of Oxford would effect the same result, so far as the Established Church was concerned, in other parts of England.

2. The prominent fallacy—upon which much of the charge of exaggeration in the case of Dissenters depends—relates to the proof of inaccuracy which is supposed to be involved in the fact that in certain cases the number of persons returned as attending was greater than the number of sittings provided in the chapels attended. Strange as it may seem to careless critics, the two statements are not contradictory. The number of persons who attended a chapel was in many cases greater than the number of the sittings; and this simply because, in the Roman Catholic and some other communions, repeated services, attended by different persons, are held in the same portion of the day. Isolated cases of discrepancy, not due to this cause, may possibly have occurred; but that such should have sensibly affected the complete result is sufficiently refuted by the fact that the proportion of sittings occupied in churches and chapels respectively was—in churches, 51.1 per 100; in chapels, 55.3 per 100, a difference in favour of the chapels singularly small, considering that, in the absence of endowments, they depend almost entirely for their maintenance upon the size of the congregations which can be collected. (It may be observed in passing that these figures have some bearing on the question of the comparative influence of rain upon Churchmen and Dissenters.)

The above may serve as a specimen of many tests which enable statisticians to assert the general accuracy of a mass of facts in spite of possible errors in particular cases; and when, in addition to this ground of confidence, it can, as I believe, be affirmed that every independent inquiry of sufficient scope has served to establish the substantial correctness of the work of 1851, I hope that I may, without obtrusiveness, endeavour, for the second time in the course of seventeen years, to protect what is really public property from unjust depreciation through the inconsiderate attacks of those to whom the facts, or some supposed deductions from them, are distasteful.

The following paper was placed by the Liberation Society in the hands of all the Liberal members of the House of Commons yesterday:—

Dr. Ball, M.P., having given notice that, in the committee on the bill for taking the Census of England in 1871, he will move an amendment involving a compulsory inquiry into the "religious profession" of every inhabitant of the country, attention is invited to the following reasons why such amendment should be rejected:—

1. Because a large number of persons conscientiously believe that the Government has no right to compel individuals to make any declaration in regard to their religious belief or practice. Many of these will feel bound to withhold the required information, and, to that extent, the returns obtained will be seriously defective.
2. Because the undefined position of numerous individuals, in regard to religion, or to religious organisations, would render it difficult for them to make an accurate return; while the returns furnished by occupiers, on behalf of others, would, in many cases, be untrustworthy and misleading.
3. Because, while a very considerable portion of the population are not in the habit of attending places of worship, and are unconnected with any religious body, their unwillingness to admit the fact would lead them to give replies which would be untrue, and altogether fallacious.

4. Because, from the political importance known to be attached at the present time to ecclesiastical statistics, the members of the various denominations would be strongly tempted to resort to improper means to swell their respective numbers.

5. Because the attempt to take such a census would not merely furnish an occasion for misrepresentation and fraud, but would give rise to suspicion and to irritation of feeling—both now and hereafter—which would outweigh the advantages likely to arise from the inquiry, even were it possible to ensure accurate and reliable results.

It is further submitted, that none of these evils would be prevented by the adoption of the suggestion, that, in addition to an inquiry into the personal profession of individuals, there should be a census of accommodation, and also of attendance, in places of worship, as in the year 1851. On the contrary, the opportunities for dishonesty would be increased in number, and any attempt to check one set of returns by others—all being, more or less, open to objection—would result in hopeless confusion.

It is suggested that an inquiry into the number of, and the sittings in, places of worship, is one which could be made with the greatest certainty of a satisfactory issue. A census of Sunday attendance, also, would not be objected to by Nonconformists; but to any Governmental attempt to deal with the religious professions of individuals they will feel obliged to offer strenuous resistance."

THE IRISH GLEBE LOANS BILL.

This is a bill to amend the Act of 1 & 2 William IV. c. 83, and "to afford facilities for obtaining loans for the erection, enlargement, and improvement of glebe houses, and for the acquirement of lands for glebes, in Ireland"—the Act referred to being one for the extension and promotion of public works in Ireland. It authorises the Commissioners

of Public Works to make loans, to the extent of three-fourths of the value, for (1) erecting, or improving, "any dwelling-house for any ecclesiastical person," belonging to "any religious denomination whatsoever"; (2) purchasing land, to the extent of ten acres, to be occupied as glebe land; and (3) for discharging any debt incurred for either of such purposes prior to the passing of the Act.

The loans are to be repaid by the annual payment of 5 per cent. on the amount, for the term of thirty-five years; or by an earlier payment of a larger amount, by agreement. This annual payment will be regarded as a rent-charge on the glebe, and be recoverable as such. In the case of the glebe houses, repayment is to be secured by mortgage, bond, or otherwise; the security of three persons being taken in the absence of a mortgage.

The Act is to continue in force till September 1, 1875.

Under the Act of the 10th Vict. c. 32, the Episcopalians of Ireland have had the benefit of State loans for the same purposes; but the power of borrowing possessed by the Irish clergy has now ceased, by the passing of the Irish Church Act of 1869.

The Glebe Loans (Ireland) Bill revives all our antipathy to concurrent endowment in any form or shape. After the unanimous expression of opinion evoked in the country against new religious endowment, or anything resembling it, we cannot think the House of Commons will sanction a scheme it refused when the Lords sought to make it part of the Irish Church Bill. The lending of State money for denominational purposes is one the public will not sanction, and we look to independent Liberals, with confidence, to resist this left-handed plan for temporarily bribing all religions.—*Western Daily Mercury*.

THE VOTING OF PAPAL INFALLIBILITY.

Correspondents of the *Times* throw some light on the circumstances attending the voting of the Dogma of Papal Infallibility on Monday week, the 18th instant. It will be remembered that on the first vote, on the 13th, eighty-eight Fathers voted "*Non placet*," and sixty-two gave a conditional vote. The Pope was astounded, and it is stated that when Cardinal Bilio read out the numbers, he appeared to be almost paralysed and fainting. Many were absent through illness. Cardinals Antonelli and Berardi were not present. Cardinals Schwarzenburg, Rauscher, and Matthieu voted *Non placet*; while Guidi and Silvestre voted among the *juxta modum* party. The Archbishop of New York joined the majority. The Archbishop of Tuam (Dr. M'Hale) and Bishops Clifford and Erringer gave a *Non placet*, while Dr. Ullathorne, Bishop of Birmingham, voted *Placet juxta modum*. The English were pretty equally divided, and the greater proportion of the Irish were "conditionalists." A large proportion of the Orientals, to the general surprise, gave a *Non placet*. The public proclamation of the dogma on the 18th took place amid thunder, lightning, and rain. It was hurried on by the apprehensions which war has awakened, and by the great anxiety of the bishops to get away. The efforts to turn the Pope from his purpose have been unceasing up to the last moment. Writing on the 18th the *Times* correspondent says:—

On Friday, in consequence of a resolution of the International Committee, a deputation consisting of five of their number sought and had an audience of the Pope. They were, as I am informed, Cardinal Schwarzenburg, Monseigneur Darboy, Archbishop of Paris; Monseigneur Ginouilhac, recently created Archbishop of Lyons; Monseigneur Calabrian, Archbishop of Milan; and Monseigneur Conolly, Archbishop of Halifax. The Archbishop of Paris is stated to have thrown himself at the feet of the Pope and entreated him not to make himself infallible—all to no purpose, as the event has proved. His Holiness received them kindly, begged them to leave in writing a statement of what they desired, and then dismissed them, not, however, before Cardinal Schwarzenburg, as I am told, declared that the dogma would not be worth the paper on which it was written. On Saturday the Fathers met again in a general congregation to consider the votes of "*Placet juxta modum*," and later in that day the Opposition Fathers met at the Archbishop of Paris's and Cardinal Rauscher's apartments. Instead of adhering to their original proposition to attend the Council and to declare their votes, it was decided to draw up a protest, sign it, and then, absenting themselves from the Council, leave Rome as soon as possible. The 17th, therefore, was a busy day. One might have counted no fewer than fifteen carriages at a time at the door of Cardinal Rauscher, and last evening nearly twenty of the Fathers left Rome, and seven or eight this morning. There were ninety-six absentees from the public session this morning, as far as I can collect at present, while 547 who were present voted "*Placet*," and two Neapolitans had the pluck to cry, "*Non placet*." The request of the deputation from the International Committee was, that His Holiness would omit to say that the infallibility of the Pope was the tradition of the Church, and that he would cause the anathema to be removed, but that is the *bonne bouche* of the whole affair, and it was rather too much to expect that Christians so fond of cursing could abstain from one curse more. There was a little episode at the Congregation on Saturday worth nothing. At the close of the proceeding I believe a cardinal read a protest against the "*putidissimas calumnias*," which have been published by journalists and pamphleteers, not merely "the heterodox and open enemies of the Cross of Christ," but "those who call themselves the sons of the Catholic Church." Two copies of a protest were therefore sent to each of the Fathers, who were invited to express their sentiments regarding the "base lies" and "false and calumnious statements" which had been spread to the dishonour of the Church and the august person of our Most Holy Lord (Pius IX.). Moreover, they were invited to sign it, which it was said

was done, and these papers were placed in the archives of the Council. Many, however, certainly did not sign the protest, and could not honestly sign it, for I know those among the Fathers who declared that every word in "*La Dernière Heure du Concile*," one of the works condemned, was true. And now all who can are leaving. On Saturday the Papal permission to start on their travels was given to the Fathers, who have been dispersing ever since.

The correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes:—"The ambassadors of France and Austria have each held long conferences with Cardinal Antonelli. There is no mention at the Vatican of a withdrawal of the French troops, nor any sign of movement at Civita Vecchia. Great excitement prevails among the Roman population and in the provincial towns, and numbers of young men have left Rome to enlist in Garibaldian bands. The sympathy manifested for Prussia by the Vatican and all the prelates here can only be explained by their suspecting an understanding between France and Italy to make Rome the price of an Italian alliance."

The *Pesther Lloyd* says:—"We learn that the Hungarian Minister of Public Worship has been summoned to Vienna to concert steps with the Cisleithan Ministry against the dogma of Infallibility and for the abolition of the Concordat. The Hungarian Ministry recommends that the promulgation of the new dogma in Austria and Hungary should be prohibited."

The *Vatican* publishes the text of the decree of Infallibility passed on Monday, the 18th inst. The essential words of the decree are:—"We teach and define to be a divinely revealed dogma that the Roman Pontiff, when speaking *ex cathedra*—i.e., discharging the office of Pastor and Doctor of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme Apostolic authority—he defines that a doctrine on faith and morals is to be held by the Universal Church—he then, by the Divine assistance promised to him in Blessed Peter, enjoys that infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer endowed His Church in defining doctrine on faith and morals; and consequently the decisions of the Roman Pontiff are irreformable of themselves, and not in virtue of the consent of the Church."

We believe we are right in giving a positive contradiction to the report that the Emperor of the French intends withdrawing his troops from Rome or Civita Vecchia.—*Weekly Register* (Romish organ).

Dean Close writes to the *Record* to advise the Evangelical party to stay away from the coming Church Congress at Southampton, which has been arranged, he says, to suit semi-Papists and semi-septics.

ANOTHER RETURN FROM ROME.—On Saturday morning last, July the 17th, the wife of an incumbent of a parish in the neighbourhood of Oxford, having made a public declaration renouncing the Church of Rome, and declaring an adherence to the Church of England, was received back into the Church and partook of the Holy Communion with several of the parishioners, who seemed overjoyed at the event. When the matter became generally known the bells were set ringing for a long time.

THE EDUCATION BILL IN THE LORDS.—The Duke of Richmond has already given notice that in committee on the Elementary Education Bill he will move the addition of the following clause:—"For the purpose of inspection or examination of any public elementary school on religious as well as other subjects by other than Her Majesty's Inspectors, it shall be lawful for the managers of such a school to fix a day, not more than twice in one year, on which such examination and inspection shall take place, and on such day or days the time-table hereinbefore mentioned may be changed or abrogated; provided that any scholar who has been withdrawn by his parent from instruction in religious subjects shall not be examined or be present at the examination on religious subjects."

THE IRISH PRIMITIVE METHODISTS.—At its recent sitting in Belfast the Primitive Wesleyan Methodist Conference passed a resolution in favour of a close union with the Irish Church. An eminent Chancery lawyer whose opinion has been taken on the subject, says the society could not join any other communion but the Irish Church without entailing very heavy expense by obtaining an Act of Parliament for that purpose. This opinion was laid before Master Brooke, who fully agrees with it in every particular. Extracts of letters were read in the Conference from the Irish bishops, earnestly desiring a closer union between the society and the Irish Church. A committee was appointed of preachers and representatives to confer with any committee the Irish Church might select to take the matter into consideration.

JUDGMENT IN THE BENNETT RITUALIST CASE.—Sir Robert Phillimore gave judgment in the case of "Sheppard v. the Rev. W. J. E. Bennett," on Saturday. He held that the vicar of Frome, by his original language respecting the visible presence of our Lord, and the adoration of the consecrated elements, had contravened the law of the Church. Mr. Bennett had, however, since modified the expression of his sentiments; there would, consequently, be neither a suspension nor a monition to abstain for the future from using the language which was now condemned. The Dean of Arches further held that to describe the mode of presence as objective, real, actual, and spiritual, was certainly not contrary to law. With respect to other charges, viz., those relating to sacrifice and worship, he decided that Mr. Bennett had not exceeded the liberty which the law allowed upon these subjects.

THE MARRIAGE LAW IN IRELAND.—The bill which is now before Parliament to regulate the Marriage Law of Ireland provides that marriages

may be solemnised between two persons, both of whom are Episcopalians—first, in any church or chapel vested in the Representative Body of the disestablished Church; and, second, in any church or chapel which, after the passing of the act, shall be licensed for the celebration of marriages. It is further provided that all marriages shall be preceded by the publication of banns, or license, or by certificate from the registrar. The bishops of the disestablished Church are empowered to license churches or chapels for the celebration of marriages, and also to grant licences for marriages. Marriages may be solemnised by an Episcopalian clergyman between a person who is a Protestant Episcopalian and one who is not; and by a Roman Catholic clergyman between a person who is a Roman Catholic and one who is not on certain conditions.

THE WESTMINSTER ABBEY COMMUNION.—Some of the clergy who are scandalised at the Dean of Westminster's mixed communion in Henry VII.'s Chapel are getting up a memorial on the subject to the Archbishop of Canterbury, which will be presented to His Grace on an early day. The memorialists say:—"We, the undersigned priests and deacons of the Church of England, desire to express to your Grace, as our chief pastor, our grief and astonishment at the admission in Westminster Abbey, to the Blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, of teachers of various sects openly separate from our communion, and more especially of one understood to be a denier of the divinity of our Lord. We also beg respectfully to state our belief that the Church expressly intended to guard against the possibility of such a cause of offence by the rubric which requires that 'there shall none be admitted to the Holy Communion until such times as he be confirmed or be ready and desirous to be confirmed.'"

Religious and Denominational News.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

As we stated in our last number, the Wesleyan Conference meetings take place this year in the Potteries. Several of the neighbouring towns will be visited, but the first public sitting takes place at Burslem to-morrow, when the President and Secretaries will be chosen.

We have already reported the proceedings of the Education Committee of Review, at which it was decided that no connexional action should be taken relative to the present aspect of the education question.

On Wednesday the Chapel Committee of Review met, and the Rev. C. PEARCE moved a resolution expressive of thankfulness for the success of the Chapel department in the building of new chapels, and in paying off the debts on existing places of worship. He was glad that the Wesleyans had the necessary guarantees for the maintenance of religious truth, but even these were of little value if they did not secure the great object of personal godliness in their ministers and people. He trusted they would be faithful to their Protestant principles. He believed there was too much disposition on the part of many leading statesmen to favour Popery. Where Nonconformists asked for anything reasonable they were refused, but the Roman Catholics demanded greater things, and they got them. He began to be of opinion that they, as Wesleyans, would have to work more than they had done with the Nonconformists. It might be difficult to work with some of them, but he thought they might form a small and simple platform upon which they might co-operate with their Nonconformist brethren. The resolution was seconded by Mr. RADMILL, of London, and supported by Mr. SMITH, of Leeds. The next resolution complained of the irregular manner in which several building operations had been undertaken. Sixty-five such cases had been entered upon during the year, involving an outlay of more than 60,000l. Several gentlemen spoke upon the subject, and in speaking to the same resolution, Dr. RICE expressed his regret and surprise that such irregularities should have occurred.

Dr. OSBORN moved a resolution calling attention to the necessity of increasing the income of the Chapel Fund in order to meet the increasing requirements of the Wesleyan Society. He suggested that much more might be made of subscriptions from trustees, and if all the chapels contributed something to the fund it would be very efficiently augmented. In movements of this kind they should maintain the connexional principle, and remember that what they got for the connexional funds, they got for themselves, and each individual circuit shared the general good. Mr. ISAAC HOLDEN seconded Dr. Osborn's resolution. He thought that in urging others to increase their subscription he should either increase his own or give reasons for not doing so. One cause of his success in life was not being content with things as they were. He thought that Gothic chapels were not the best for Wesleyans. They were difficult to speak in; besides, they had a mission to the poor, and he did not think that poor people liked fine chapels. They (the Wesleyans) might have a few apish imitations of splendid ecclesiastical buildings, but they could not succeed in rivalling the Church of England as to the style of their places of worship. He was not the enemy of the Church of England. John Wesley was not, but he had reason for coming out of it, and he was a greater friend to evangelical truth. He referred to Mr. Martin's chapel at Westminster as a model as to form, acoustic properties, cheapness, and comfort for the worshippers. He also referred to the project of establishing an insurance society for Wesleyan church property. Mr. Holden referred to the

Catholic question. He did not think Mr. Gladstone had Popish tendencies, but, of course, like other statesmen, he could not be indifferent to the Catholic vote. The Wesleyans could get much, too, from Government if they had many Wesleyans in the House of Commons, but he said, "Thy money perish with thee" to all parties who brought political pressure to bear upon the Government in order to get State money. Mr. BUNTING, of Manchester, held to the usage and original arrangements as to chapel architecture, which left the people free to adopt any style of architecture they pleased, and it would certainly be out of place to enact laws for the regulation of the people's tastes.

Mr. HOWARTH, of Manchester, moved a resolution urging the trustees to husband their income, with a view to the extension of religion. The incomes of the several chapels, he said, should not be expended in small extras, in mere matters of taste, or in easing the ordinary means of supporting the ministry, but in the enlargement and extension of the work of God. The Rev. CHARLES HAYDON seconded the resolution, and in a sentence indicated the true policy of chapel trustees when he said that "they should try to get a surplus and then use it well."

Mr. PETHYBRIDGE, of Lancaster, in supporting the resolution, said that the poor people ought to be made comfortable in the House of God, and their seats should be accessible to them without their having to pass some considerable distance under the observation of the congregation. Dr. WADDY agreed with Mr. Holden in his remarks against Gothic chapels for Methodism. They were unsuitable for their purpose, and difficult to speak in. Gothic chapels had been too much favoured in Methodism, and he (Dr. Waddy) hoped to see a reaction against them. He did not, of course, wish to see ugly chapels, but he thought that square chapels in the Italian style might be made sufficiently beautiful. The Rev. J. R. HALL said that in some Gothic chapels the preacher could be easily heard, and the ease and comfort of speaking in Gothic chapels depended upon the manner in which they were arranged internally.

The meeting of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund Committee was held on Thursday morning; the Rev. Dr. Jobson, President, in the chair.

The general report was read by the SECRETARY, Rev. C. PREST, from which the following particulars are taken:—"Income for year, 25,700l., an increase on the annual income since the reorganisation of this work of 15,738l. Increase of members in those circuits in which home missionary ministers are labouring is for the year 715, and since these missions were reorganised in their present form, 14,686. In the same time sixteen new chapels, providing accommodation for 6,110 hearers, and at a cost of 25,910l.; regular services established, 425; society classes, 565; Sabbath-schools, 122; children in attendance, 10,730; day-schools, 24; cottage services on week-days, 425; Bible-classes, 69; domiciliary visits to the sick and others, 64,966; 51 home mission stations have been merged into regular circuit work; 50 ministers' houses have been provided; 5,620l. has been granted during five years to aiding in the furnishing of 141 ministers' houses; 79 married ministers are supported by this fund. During the year ministers appointed to the army have ministered to 4,449 soldiers, who have declared themselves as Wesleyans. Both parade and voluntary services had been unusually well attended.

The Rev. C. PREST moved the first resolution, referring to the work of the past year—its success and encouragements. He drew attention to the work of home missions in London, and of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund. He also referred to the intention to recommend to Conference the propriety of engaging rooms and cottages in London, where sites of chapels could not at once be obtained, and also the employment of Bible-women and other lay labourers.

Sir FRANCIS LYCETT seconded the resolution. He referred chiefly to the work of home missions in London. Thirty years ago, Methodists had sittings in their chapels for 20,000 people; now there was room for 70,000; and yet Methodists were the smallest, in London, of the large denominations. The Baptists had sittings for nearly 120,000 people, and the Independents for nearly 200,000. One reason of this was that they secured eligible sites for chapels in time. He (Sir F. Lycett) offered to give 10,000l. for ten new chapels in the next year, if another 10,000l. for the same purpose could be raised in the provinces. Ten years ago there were thirty-seven ministers in London, and now there were seventy-five; but this was totally inadequate to the work in the metropolis. He urged that more chapels should be built, in order to meet the requirements of the large influx of Methodists from the country. The Metropolitan Chapel Building Committee asked for the appointment of an influential minister to undertake the office of secretary in connection with it.

The Rev. S. R. HALL spoke at length upon the kind of agents to be employed by this society; and regarded with favour the proposal to introduce another class of labourers. Dr. OSBORN maintained that such training as was given in the theological institutions was calculated to fit and not unfit the students for home mission work. The Rev. T. VASEY, Mr. I. HOLDEN, and others, spoke upon the same question. The Rev. W. ARTHUR, M.A., urged the importance of recognising the adaptation of certain men to this work. All men were not possessed of this adaptation, and this fact ought to be recognised in the appointments to be made. He ventured the opinion that the West-end of London needed to be cared for as well as the East-end, for, next to Oxford, he believed it was in the West of London where the battle between Popery and Protestantism must in the next few years be fought.

The Rev. JOSEPH HARGREAVES moved a resolution recommending to Conference that a minimum allowance for ministers should be fixed, and urging that home-mission labour should be increased in the towns and rural districts. Mr. NEWTON (Richmond) seconded the resolution. Mr. M'ARTHUR, M.P., spoke, in supporting the resolution, of the importance of a good intellectual training for the ministry, and the need for fixing a minimum allowance for the ministry. He also inquired what steps were being taken to secure for Wesleyan chaplains the same privileges as were granted to Roman Catholics. He would deny the latter no civil or religious right, but he must contend that Wesleyans, occupying the position they did in the land, were entitled to the same privileges. Why was it that Romanist chaplains had admission to the prisons of England, while Wesleyan chaplains had not? He also urged the importance of pastoral visitation of the people. Messrs. J. J. Lidgett, H. H. Fowler, and others, took part in the general conversation which ensued. The resolution passed. Resolutions of thanks to the various officers were voted by the committee, and the business closed.

On Friday morning the affairs of the Theological Institutions came under review. The Rev. Dr. JAMES read the reports of the three colleges at Richmond, Didsbury, and Headingley. The students in the two latter are prepared for the ministry in Great Britain and Ireland, and those in the former for the work of missionaries abroad. Reference was made to the selection of the Rev. W. F. Moulton, M.A., classical tutor at Richmond, as a member of the Committee for the Revision of the Bible appointed by the Committee of Convocation. The Rev. J. D. Geden, classical tutor at Didsbury, has also been appointed. The Rev. JOHN FARRAN, general treasurer, read the financial statement, which showed a balance in hand of nearly 1,000l. The Rev. C. PREST moved a resolution expressing satisfaction with the reports read. He denied that there was any tendency in the mode of teaching followed in these institutions to unfit them for the evangelistic work of the Christian Church. Dr. RICE suggested the advantage of establishing a preliminary school or class, in connection with the theological institutions, in which candidates for the ministry who had not enjoyed the advantages of early culture might be prepared for the more advanced studies of the institution. Messrs. POCOCK and LIDGETT spoke on the same subject, the latter more especially urging that those who were to be the future ministers of Methodism should be trained in an acquaintance with the literary and theological treasures in the English language. A conversation followed upon the kind of intellectual training most likely to prepare the students for the ministry, in which the Revs. Dr. JAMES, W. ARTHUR, and others took part. The committee closed with votes of thanks to the different officers.

The recent census of the Society of Friends in England shows an unusual increase in the number of members during the past year.

The Rev. J. S. Pearsall, the esteemed pastor of Eccleston-square Congregational Church, has been under the necessity, arising out of severe personal affliction, of resigning his pastorate.

The congregation of the High Church, Inverness, vacant through the recent removal of the Rev. Donald Fraser, M.A., to Marylebone, have resolved to present a "call" to the Rev. J. Thain Davidson, of Islington.

Signor Gavazzi delivered an address on the "Italian Free Churches" in Mr. Binney's chapel on Sunday evening. It appeared from his statement that there are thirty-three churches of this order. Signor Gavazzi had been deputed to represent them in the approaching Conference at New York. A collection was made towards defraying his expenses.

OPEN-AIR MISSION.—The quarterly meeting of the members and friends of this society was held on Monday evening in the Rev. Thomas Alexander's new school hall, Cadogan-terrace, Chelsea. The chair was occupied by Lord Radstock, and a special address on "How shall Christ be preached to the Masses?" was delivered by the Rev. J. G. Gregory, minister of Park Chapel, Chelsea. This is the second quarterly meeting the society has held away from the usual place of meeting; the previous one being at Westminster Chapel by invitation of the Rev. Samuel Martin, who, as in Mr. Alexander's case, provided tea free.

DAWLISH.—The Rev. Frederick Wagstaff having resigned the pastorate of the Congregational Church, Dawlish, Devon, after a ministry of rather over three years and a half, preached his farewell sermon on Sunday evening, July 24th. On the Friday previous a purse was presented to Mr. Wagstaff, the contents of which had been subscribed by persons of various religious and political opinions in the town; a fact which is the more significant because the rev. gentleman has not hesitated to take a prominent part in political matters, and not long since received a present of books in recognition of services rendered to the Liberal cause during the general election of 1868.

ARRIVAL OF THE REV. ROBERT MOFFAT.—With the arrival of the Norseman on Monday, an interesting item of news is connected. Amongst the passenger was the veteran South African missionary, Robert Moffat, who for more than fifty years has been successfully grappling with the most degrading forms of heathenism. A generation has almost passed away since he used to delight English audiences with his stories of African life and adventure, and fire their enthusiasm in the cause of missions. Those, however, who remember the dark-eyed, black-haired,

olive-complexioned man of fifty will scarcely recognise the Moffat of their early days in the venerable grey-haired and grey-bearded man of nearly eighty years of age who has just landed. Few missionaries have met with a greater amount of success than Mr. Moffat. He has been the means of civilising the most barbarous and savage tribes, and of bringing them to respect law and order. It is his laudable boast that in the accomplishment of this he has used no other weapon than his Bible. The object of his visit to this country is that he may see through the press the Bible which he has translated into the Sechuana language, and he leaves his son in charge of his stations during his absence.—*Daily News*.

Correspondence.

MR. GLADSTONE AND MR. MIALL.
To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Allow me to express in your columns my hearty thanks to the hon. member for Bradford for the earnest and just protest he made on Friday night against the Education Bill.

Mr. Gladstone's retort, that Dissenters have been seeking their own narrow objects rather than the good of the community, is most unfair. Neither Mr. Miall nor any other Dissenter has sought in any particular for exceptional legislation in their favour; Churchmen—the winning section of them—have sought such State favour, and Mr. Gladstone has given it them. It is preposterous in him to assert that he has rejected narrow ends and aimed at wider ones when he has thrown overboard and betrayed those who sought only perfect equality, and has legislated in the interests of a class to whom equality is a *bête noir*.

Truly yours,

THOMAS GREEN.

Ashton-under-Lyne, July 17, 1870.

PROPOSED DAY OF PRAYER.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will it not be well, in consideration of what awful consequences must result from another European war, for all the Nonconformists of England to appoint a day of special and united prayer to God that He will avert so great a calamity?

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Yours sincerely,

H. L.

Colleges and Schools.

EAST OF ENGLAND NONCONFORMIST GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

The distribution of prizes preparatory to the summer vacation took place on Wednesday last, in the presence of a large assembly of the friends of the school, including Edward Grimwade, Esq., Mayor of Ipswich, the Rev. Dr. Stoughton; Revs. J. G. Rogers, A. Mackennal, W. Outhbertson; T. W. Davis, of Colchester; J. Davis, of Epping; D. Davies, of Stanstead; J. Irving, of Dunwell; Alfred Francis, Esq., of Colchester, &c. Luncheon having been served, the company assembled in the schoolroom, Edward Grimwade, Esq., presiding. Letters expressive of interest in the institution, and of regret for unavoidable absence from the meeting, were received from the Rev. D. Davies, of Therfield, near Royston, the secretary of the Herts Union; from the Rev. J. Wood, of Sawbridgeworth; from Mr. Bartlett, through whom the school has received the gift of a gold medal; from the Rev. A. Hannay, prevented by sudden indisposition; and from Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., which was in the following terms:—

House of Commons' Library, July 19, 1870.

Dear Mr. Alliot,—I am very unwilling to lose the pleasure to which you invite me of attending your gathering to-morrow. I should have been glad of the opportunity of again urging the importance to all Nonconformists of availing themselves of the improved education for their sons so comparatively largely now within their reach. I fear many do not yet fully appreciate the claim which the peculiar character of the times has on them. I wish you continued and increasing success.

Believe me, dear Mr. Alliot, yours very truly,
The Rev. R. Alliot.

S. MORLEY.

The school now contains ninety-two pupils, and we are glad to learn that the financial affairs are in so satisfactory a condition that the directors will be enabled to distribute a dividend among the shareholders.

After devotional exercises, the reports of the examiners were read. The gentlemen who undertook that office were Mr. J. F. Moulton, of Christ's College, Cambridge, in mathematics; the Rev. Dr. Reynolds, of Oshunt College, in Scripture history and Christian evidences; and the Rev. J. Reed, of Christ's College, in English, French, and the classics. Their reports were of a very gratifying character. Mr. Moulton says:—"Though as yet there are no boys in it whose mathematical attainments are great, yet there is abundant evidence throughout the school of all having been subjected to careful and successful training, resulting in a general excellence, promising rapid and sure advances in the future." Dr. Reynolds remarks at the close of his report:—"I rejoice greatly at the extent, thoroughness, and tone of the religious education given in the school." The Chairman then proceeded to distribute the prizes, accompanying the presentation with appropriate remarks.

The Rev. J. G. Rogers, B.A., of Clapham, delivered an address to the pupils, which was listened to with much attention. He sympathised with the pleasure with which they were looking forward to the holidays; but reminded them that the true enjoyment of holidays resulted only from duties well discharged. He took occasion to protest against the undue extent to which "physical education" was in some quarters being advocated, reminding them that whatever attention was paid to the development of muscular power, the proper aim of education must ever be regarded as mental and moral discipline. He pointed out the superior advantages enjoyed by the children of Nonconformists in the present day as compared with former times; many of the higher prizes of the University were now open to attainment, and he doubted not that before many years Nonconformists would be admitted to the emoluments and rank of University fellowships. He thoroughly dissuaded parents from succumbing to the notion that if children were to be employed in business the sooner they were put to it the better, contending that in the present age the value of brains had become increasingly important. He scouted as a relic of feudalism the notion that there was anything discreditable in a connection with trade, and urged the importance of giving to the trading classes a taste for the most intellectual pursuits. To the value of classical learning he paid an undoubted testimony, notwithstanding the ridicule which had been sometimes thrown on "gerund grinding," and concluded with a vindication of Nonconformists from the charge of being indifferent to religious education. Nonconformists might doubt whether it was necessary that religion should form a part of ordinary day-school instruction, and might deny the propriety or desirableness of any Government undertaking to teach religion, but as to religion being essential to all true education, Nonconformists had never entertained a question. For this reason religious training was regarded as the most important part of the work of this institution. The love of God, the fear of God, and the desire to serve and honour Him, Nonconformists had ever regarded as the basis and foundation of all true and noble character. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said while Mr. Rogers was urging upon parents the importance of allowing children to remain at school somewhat longer than had at one time been thought necessary, he was reminded of the fact that he had been sent from school to business at the early age of twelve years, and although he had in later years endeavoured by study to supplement his deficiencies, he much regretted the want of greater school advantages in his own case, and this had led him with greater zest to exert himself in the establishment of this institution, so that the next generation might enjoy more fully those educational advantages on which he had been taught to set so high a value. The Chairman mentioned that the Herts Union was taking steps for founding a scholarship at this school. (Cheers.)

Congratulatory addresses were then delivered by the Rev. Dr. Stoughton and A. Mackennal.

The Rev. T. W. DAVIDS, on behalf of the directors, who had derived very great encouragement from the proceedings of the day, expressed their deep obligation to Mr. Rogers for his paper; to Dr. Stoughton and Mr. Mackennal for their addresses; to Mr. Alliot and his able colleagues; and to Mr. Grimwade for his services in residing that day, and for the lively interest which he had at all times manifested in the welfare of the school. He trusted that the time would not be far distant when they should begin to think whether this school for boys might not be supplemented by a similar school for the fair sex. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. GUTHBERTSON, in seconding the resolution, said the undoubted success which had characterised the proceedings of the day was highly gratifying to himself and others who laboured in the foundation of this school amidst circumstances of a somewhat discouraging character. That period of discouragement had now long passed away, for the school had become a perfect success.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the Rev. R. ALLIOTT briefly returned thanks on behalf of the staff of masters.

The doxology was sung, the benediction pronounced, three cheers were given for the Queen, and, with many more hearty cheers, the proceedings of the day were brought to a close.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday the Settled Estates Bill, to enable the owners of settled estates to charge them for the erection or extension of the mansion to an extent not exceeding three years' net rent, was read a second time.

ECCLIASTICAL COURTS BILL.

This bill was also read a second time on the understanding that it would not be further pressed this session. A remark by Lord SHAFTESBURY that the abuses of the Ecclesiastical Courts would have been reformed long ago but for the obstruction of the bishops, drew from the Bishop of LONDON an indignant vindication of the episcopal bench. Lord SALISBURY doubted whether it was advisable to sharpen the legal weapons which rival parties in the Church could turn against each other. If legal proceedings were at present cumbrous and expensive, the evil had its advantages.

The Married Women's Property Bill was amended on the report by the addition of a proviso moved by Lord ROMILLY, that the wife should have, as her separate estate, any sum not exceeding 200*l.* to which

she might be entitled under any deed or will. This was not, however, carried without opposition from Lord CAIRNS; on a division, there were 29 votes for and seventeen against it.

The Judicial Committee Bill passed through committee, Lord ROMILLY and Lord CAIRNS complaining of the parsimony shown in the amount of salaries (2,500*l.* a year), and threatening amendments on the report. Lord CAIRNS suggested that the bill should be limited to two years, as it was evidently intended to meet a temporary crisis.

UNIVERSITY TESTS BILL.

On the motion for appointing the select committee on the University Tests Bill, Lord GRANVILLE adverted to the inconvenience of the course pursued. The bill still remained on their Lordships' orders, and he wished to know whether Lord Salisbury intended to press the committee to sit in order that the bill might pass during the present session. Lord SALISBURY defended the course he had pursued, and said that, as the prorogation was so near, he did not think it likely the committee could sit with any prospect of passing the bill this session. He proposed to call witnesses whose evidence would, he trusted, open a way of settling this thorny controversy. The select committee was nominated on the understanding that it would sit at the earliest period next session.

Their Lordships adjourned at ten minutes to nine.

On Friday the Elementary Education Bill was brought from the Commons and read a first time.

THE CANADIAN DOMINION.

Lord CARNARVON, describing the recent Fenian raid upon Canada and the circumstances which led up to it, urged that Canadian loyalty should be encouraged by an assurance of English sympathy. He feared there was a good deal of irritation in the Dominion in consequence of a suspicion that the English Government would not be sorry to be relieved from the duty of defending it. He appealed to the Government to dissipate these apprehensions by their language and acts, and convince Canada that she was regarded as an integral part of the Empire. He moved a resolution expressive of satisfaction that the regular troops had co-operated with the Canadians in the defence of their frontier. Lord KIMBERLEY complained that the noble Earl was continually pressing the Government for declarations on this subject, but when he got them they seemed to afford him no satisfaction, as he always returned to the charge. A mischievous effect could not fail to be produced by repeated insinuations made in public by an ex-Minister that the Government cherished secret designs which they were afraid to avow. He repeated in the most emphatic manner that the Government had no intention of abandoning Canada. He quoted Lord Granville's despatch thanking the Canadian volunteers for their promptitude and courage, and deprecated as unnecessary a solemn Parliamentary resolution on the subject. The Duke of CAMBRIDGE took occasion to express his sense of the loyalty and devotion of the Canadians. Lord MALMESBURY and the Duke of RICHMOND supported the resolution, while Lord LYNDENH opposed it, and Lord GRANVILLE endorsed on his own account the declaration of his successor at the Colonial Office in regard to the defence of Canada. In the end Lord CARNARVON withdrew his resolution.

The Married Women's Property Bill and the New Zealand (Guarantee of Loan) Bill were read a third time and passed.

In reply to Lord Clanricarde, Lord GRANVILLE said the Government thought it better not to attempt to define "contraband of war," and had seen no reason to prohibit the exportation of horses.

Their Lordships adjourned at a quarter to eight.

THE PROPOSED SECRET TREATY.

On Monday Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE called attention to the project of a treaty between France and Prussia published in the *Times*, and which he described as not only of great interest to England, but of the deepest importance to Europe. He asked whether the Government were in possession of any information with regard to its authenticity.

Lord GRANVILLE said he had no information as to the source from which the *Times* had obtained what his noble friend had correctly described as a very important document. Her Majesty's Government were, however, convinced that after the announcement of the existence of such a draught treaty both the Governments of France and Prussia would immediately and spontaneously give an explanation to Europe on this matter.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

Lord DE GREY, in moving the second reading of the Elementary Education Bill, described its principal provisions, premising that measures would be taken in the first place to divide the country into educational districts, and to ascertain the extent of the present provision for education. He did not offer the bill as a perfect system of national education; but it would preserve what was good and supply what was wanting in the present system, and would secure that the means of elementary education should be brought within the reach of every child in the country.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH believed that the action of Parliament was required to supplement the existing deficiency of education, and congratulated the Government upon having brought in a measure which he regarded as upon the whole of a satisfactory character. He could not, however, see why the original conscience clause had been departed from, and expressed his belief that the religious difficulty had been greatly exaggerated. He pointed out objections to a time-table conscience clause, to the

clause relating to compulsory education, and certain other provisions of the bill. It had, however, been brought in at a favourable juncture, and he trusted it would, with some amendments, contribute greatly to the prosperity and happiness of the country.

The Bishop of Gloucester said that Churchmen were called upon by this bill to acquiesce in many things which were very distasteful to their feelings.

Lord SHAFTESBURY said that, with all its imperfections, the bill was the best which the Government could have carried against the combination of Secularists and political Dissenters. Concurring in the eulogy passed by Lord de Grey and the Duke of Marlborough upon the Vice-President of the Committee of Council, he especially praised Mr. Forster for the courage and manliness with which he had recognised and adopted what had been done by the Church and other denominations. He cited various authorities to show that the religious difficulty practically never arose in teaching children of different denominations, and then, passing to the compulsory clauses of the bill, he pointed out the difficulty of carrying out a system of compulsory attendance in many parts of the metropolis, in consequence of the nomadic and wandering habits of the population, and suggested evening schools and classes, both in town and country, as going far to solve the difficulty. The assertion of the principle that the State had the right and duty to see that every child should be educated, struck, he feared, at the root of the voluntary system; but the bill was a step in the right direction, and he trusted that it would not be found unworthy of the prayers of a Christian nation.

Lord HOWARD OF GLOUCESTER thought that the Government had met a great difficulty with boldness and success; but some emendations would be necessary in fairness to the Roman Catholic body, to which he belonged.

The Duke of RICHMOND eulogised the voluntary efforts made by the Church of England to educate the people, and congratulated the Government upon their refusal to ignore the existing denominational schools. Having referred to the more salient educational clauses which would require consideration, he passed to the political portion of the bill—the election of boards by way of ballot. He objected to this attempt to prejudice a great question, and thought that the Government had shown a sort of infatuation in introducing the ballot in a matter with which it had nothing to do. The bill would work perfectly well without it, and he gave notice that he should move the omission of the clause in committee. With certain amendments the bill would, he trusted, promote the happiness and prosperity and be suited to the requirements of a Christian people.

Lord DE GREY gratefully acknowledged the general support which the bill had received from both sides of the House. He briefly replied to the objections raised during the debate, and said he should propose to go into committee on Friday next.

The bill was then read a second time.

The Judicial Committee Bill was read a third time.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The Commons' amendments to the Lords' amendments to the Irish Land Bill were then considered. On Clause 8, enabling the court to deal with certain cases of ejectment for the non-payment of rent, Lord GRANVILLE accepted a suggestion from the Duke of RICHMOND for the settlement of the matter in dispute. It was then agreed that the Lords insist on the amendments to which the Commons objected in regard to the words "particulars or character," which, it was pointed out, should run "particulars and character."

Lord GRANVILLE said that as the papers respecting the negotiations preliminary to the war between France and Prussia were ready, he would make a statement on the subject on Thursday.

Their Lordships adjourned at ten minutes past eleven.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE GAME LAWS.

On Wednesday there was a lengthened debate on the adjourned order for the second reading of Mr. P. A. Taylor's bill for the repeal of all the statutes on the subject of the Game Laws. Mr. McLEOD thought the proper solution of the difficulty was to take ground game out of the game list. Mr. C. S. READ said he knew a farm in Norfolk which was well worth 1,000*l.* a year without game, but in consideration of the game it was let at 400*l.*, so that 600*l.* a year was lost in the assessment for poor-rates and other local burdens; the tenant, being utterly ruined, had become desperate, and having nothing left on his farm but hares and rabbits, had taken it into his head to destroy them himself, contrary to his agreement. It was no wonder, then, that in that particular district there should be 18,000 acres of land to let. No doubt there was often exaggeration as to the evils of preserving, and many landlords showed great consideration for their tenants, but unfortunately the mania for battues was extending. He believed it would be for the interest of the tenants, for the benefit of agriculture, and for the good of the public, if Parliament stepped in and prevented the tenants from entirely alienating their rights over the game. Mr. TILLET, in a vigorous maiden speech, supported the bill.

Mr. G. Gregory, Mr. Hermon, and Mr. Bass defended the rights of property, Mr. Bass declaring that the bill was as daring an attack on property as a distribution of houses would be. The Lord Advocate also spoke strongly on the same side. The game law was simply the law of property. Every proprietor could exclude from his land all who were not entitled to be on it. A tenant-farmer had only a right to be there by contract. This was a mere question of rent, and was Parliament to interfere in

order to prescribe the rents at which farms should be let?

Mr. P. TAYLOR, in reply, could not help suggesting that the speech of the Lord Advocate must have been intended for the debate on the Irish Land Bill, when, no doubt, it would have been received with even more rapturous cheers by hon. gentlemen opposite. On a division the "previous question" was carried—147 to 59.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.

The rest of the day was spent in discussing the Contagious Diseases Act Repeal Bill. When the order for resuming the adjourned debate was called on, Mr. CRAUFORD again drew attention to the presence of strangers, upon which the gallery was cleared. The reporters were readmitted at a quarter before six o'clock, and found that the debate had been further adjourned. A number of members took notes of the debate, and we thus know that Mr. JACOB BRIGHT delivered a violent speech against the Acts; Lord H. LENNOX, defending them in an elaborate statistical manner, protested against the aggressive indecency of the opponents of the law; Mr. WHITBREAD doubted whether the police had not acted harshly and severely in fulfilling the duties imposed on them; and Captain VIVIAN cited copious evidence from clergymen and various local authorities, showing the beneficial operation of the system.

THE WAR BETWEEN FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

On Thursday afternoon there was a large attendance of members in the House of Commons, and the long string of questions, more than thirty in all, showed the anxious curiosity of the House, especially in regard to the war and everything connected with it. There were continual murmurs and cries of "Order" while Mr. HORSMAN, in putting a couple of questions to the Premier, took the opportunity to indicate his own opinion that Prussia, by consenting to the renunciation under pressure from the neutral powers, with the knowledge of France, had lost Spain as an ally; and that France, by proceeding to war, had departed from a general understanding to which she was bound in honour and good faith. He asked for information as to the negotiations which preceded the withdrawal of Prince Leopold, and the proceedings of Russia and Austria since the declaration of war. Mr. A. SAYMOUR asked whether there was a secret treaty between France and Denmark, and whether France had ever proposed mutual disarmament to Prussia.

Mr. GLADSTONE declined to go into discussion, or to anticipate the information which would be found in the official papers to be laid on the table the next evening. The Government had no precise knowledge of the expectations under which the King of Prussia acted, except what was supplied by these papers. As to Austria and Russia, they had used their best efforts on both sides in the interests of peace. There was no reason to believe in the existence of a treaty of alliance between France and Denmark. As far as they knew, no formal representation had been made by France to Prussia for mutual disarmament; but that was not the whole truth. Communications were carried on through Lord Clarendon with France and Prussia on the subject; of those communications there was no official record, and as they were carried on confidentially by Lord Clarendon on behalf of both parties the Government were not entitled in courtesy to divulge them.

In reply to Sir H. Bulwer and Mr. Heygate, Mr. GLADSTONE stated that both France and Prussia had given satisfactory assurances of their desire to respect the neutrality of Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg, assuming that they were able to defend each their own territory, and that it was not violated by either belligerent. The Premier also, in answer to Mr. GOURLEY, gave some information as to the conditions under which neutral vessels would be allowed to visit France and Belgium, and further stated that, though there was a brisk exportation of horses going on from this country, he was not aware that it was more than usual at this season, and the Government had no intention of interfering with it.

Mr. CARDWELL informed Major Anson that in prohibiting military officers from being newspaper correspondents during the war, the War Office had acted on a general rule—not always enforced—but to which on this occasion they had not thought it right to make any exception.

In answer to Mr. Rylands, Mr. OTWAY said that as early as the 11th of May Mr. LAYARD had mentioned the probable nomination of a Prussian Prince in a despatch, with the remark that it would create difficulties with France.

EXCLUSION OF REPORTERS.

The Education Bill was about to be called, when Mr. HENLEY, in revenge for the exclusion of the public on the previous afternoon, when the Contagious Diseases Acts were under discussion, drew the Speaker's attention to the presence of strangers in the gallery at his back where the reporters sit. After a moment's hesitation the SPEAKER, on Mr. HENLEY renewing his observation, ordered the "strangers" to withdraw. The reporters were shut out for half an hour, during which the House discussed the propriety of the privilege which had just been exercised. Mr. GLADSTONE promised a committee next year. Mr. DISRAELI suggested that Mr. Henley should agree not to see the reporters on this occasion, though he was not prepared to abandon the privilege; Mr. BOUVIER stoutly defended the rule. The gallery doors were then unlocked, and the reporters returned to their seats amid cheers from the members below.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

The consideration of the amendments in the Education Bill having been resumed, Sir C. DILKE

warmly objected to Mr. Forster's proposal to make the ballot by which the members of school boards are to be elected "in accordance with the principles upon which a poll is taken under the Metropolis Management Act, 1855," on the ground that this was really a method of open voting which possessed none of the advantages of the ballot. In this view he was supported by Mr. V. HARCOURT, who, with reference to the connection of the member for Boston with this proposal, described the mode of election which it would establish as "Collins's Patent Open Voting Ballot," while Mr. LEATHAM, after hearing Mr. Forster's explanation of the actual operation of the system which he proposed to introduce, announced his intention to vote with the Government; and Mr. HARDY justified his intention to go into the same lobby with the member for Chelsea by his hostility to the ballot itself. When a division was taken Mr. Forster's proposal was carried by a majority of 70—185 to 115. This intimation that the bill had passed through committee was received with loud cheers, which were repeated as Mr. W. E. Forster walked out of the House carrying in his right hand the double-sized scarlet despatch box, to the contents of which he had so often had recourse during the debates upon the bill.

IRISH LAND BILL.

The Lords' amendments to the Irish Land Bill were agreed to with one exception. In Clause 9, limiting disturbance by the landlord, the Lords had struck out the power given to the court to consider special causes why ejectment for non-payment of rent shall be considered disturbance. The Government agreed to this with the reservation that, under 15th valuation, the court may inquire whether the rent has been excessive. Mr. Disraeli accepted the compromise.

ARMY ENLISTMENT BILL.

After passing some Civil Service votes in committee of supply, the Army Enlistment Bill was considered as amended. Colonel Bartlett's amendment raising the minimum term of service in the cavalry, artillery, and engineers to seven years, was rejected by 124 to 79. In the course of the discussion General HERBERT declared we had not a battalion fit for an army of occupation in Belgium. Our regiments mustered only 500 on paper; on parade they did not average 300; and if we were to send twenty-five battalions into Belgium to-morrow they would not average more than 300 each.

On the report of the Gun Licences Bill, the exemption in favour of guns used on lands in the occupation of the owner was struck out by 123 to 34, other exemptions being substituted in favour of occupiers of lands cultivated solely by their own labour, or who use a gun for the purpose of scaring birds or killing vermin. The House adjourned at two o'clock.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

On Friday, at the two o'clock sitting, Mr. W. E. FORSTER moved that this bill be read a third time.

Mr. DIXON said that though during the progress of the bill he had never given a factions vote, nor made a speech nor lengthened one with the object of delay, while he did not oppose the third reading, it must not be supposed that he was satisfied with the bill as it stood, and he intended to place on the paper notice of his intention to bring in a bill to amend it. (A laugh.) When the bill was introduced, while satisfied that one of so comprehensive a character should have been brought forward by the Government, he pointed out defects, and these had only been partially removed; and he now proposed to show in what respects the Government had misapprehended the feeling of the country. The Government object aimed at was to bring education within the reach of every child in the country, but school boards were not to be established everywhere, and he was apprehensive they would not be established in many sections of the country, especially in rural districts, in which the means of education were very deficient; and he feared that, even where they were formed, their value would be materially lessened by the fact that they would have to take into consideration their course of action with reference to religious instruction, and that discussions would ensue which would be inimical to the efficient working of the boards. He regretted exceedingly that there was not to be universal compulsion, believing that in its absence many children would not attend school; and he regretted that more ample provision was not made for children whose parents were unable to pay the school pence, believing that the provision made was totally inadequate. There was a clause in the bill declaring that the Government grant should not exceed the amount of local contributions, and that was generally understood to mean that in some, and probably in many cases the Government grant now made to voluntary schools would be increased. He believed that such a proceeding was a retrograde step, to which the Nonconformists and Liberals throughout the country strongly objected, as tending to render permanent a system they disapproved, and no part of the measure would receive a stronger condemnation in the country than that. (Hear, hear.) Hon. members on both sides of the House could not fail to admire the admirable temper and great ability with which the Vice-President of the Council had carried the bill through the House—(Hear, hear.) but he would remind the Government that, notwithstanding that circumstance, the bill owed the great success with which it had passed to many causes which would not be lost sight of in the country. One of those causes was the

almost constant and earnest support of the Opposition—(Hear, hear)—and another was the declaration over and over again made by the Government, and on some occasions almost amounting to a threat, that unless the usual supporters of the Government went into the same lobby with them they would run the risk of losing the bill and incurring the condemnation of the country. He felt that this success of the Government had been purchased at a somewhat heavy price, because he could not conceal from himself that it had raised the suspicion, the distrust, and antagonism of some of the most earnest supporters of the Government—(Hear, hear); and he held it to be a great disadvantage that those who had done so much towards placing the Government in the strong position they held should have been accustomed to an attitude of opposition, and also to make appeals which would have to be repeated to the great Liberal party outside the House, owing to the action of that Government which had hitherto received from them so unanimous, so loyal, and so enthusiastic a support. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE believed the failure of the hon. member and his friends in the opposition they made to the bill was due not to any inconsistency with Liberal principles on the part of the Government, but to the inconsistent and contradictory position which they themselves had taken up upon this question. The Nonconformists had taken their stand upon religious freedom, and they proclaimed the Bible as the standard of religious truth, yet those gentlemen who professed to represent the Nonconformists had urged that measures should be taken to deprive teachers in national schools of that which was the right of every other person in the country, namely, a free and open Bible. The Church of England had shown upon this question no desire to press particular views or personal objects, but a willingness to make sacrifices in order to secure the passage without unnecessary delay of the urgently-needed measure of National Education; and he believed this bill would be regarded in the country by persons of all opinions as wisely framed, and as successful in the great object of building up a new system upon the old foundation.

Mr. MIALI said the speech of the right hon. gentleman the member for South Hants challenged, and he thought not very wisely, those, especially of the Nonconformist body, who had taken part in opposition to this bill, for their inconsistency and consequent want of success. They laugh who win. The right hon. gentleman had had all his desires accomplished, and he might say all the desires of the Church which he represented—(No, no)—at least, all the desires put forward by the Church; and he did not, therefore, wonder that the right hon. gentleman took up rather a jubilant tone on this occasion, and turning round to those who had to pass through the Valley of Humiliation, gave them the most discreet advice with regard to the future, and told them that all their misfortunes had proceeded from want of consideration and union as respected the past. Now, it used to be said that those were fortunate people who had friends at Court. He did not know whether Court in that sense could be interpreted as Government; but he did not think it could be said that those were fortunate people who had been allied to the Government on this occasion. He might say, without boasting, that the present Administration occupied the position it did very mainly in consequence of the warm, hearty, enthusiastic support by the Nonconformist body of the policy announced by the right hon. gentleman the Prime Minister two years ago at the last general election. (Hear, hear.) He did not say that they were the sole agents in putting the right hon. gentlemen where they were; but he did say this, that they were the heart, and he might say the hands, of the Liberal cause in this country. (Hear, hear.) He might say that they imparted to it all the enthusiasm it exhibited—that they gave whatever new impulse was given to the Liberal cause for the present time and for years to come, and that the spirit which was exhibited by the Nonconformist electors of the country at the last general election was the main force that carried the right hon. gentleman and his policy triumphantly through the obstacles that were opposed to them by the right hon. and hon. gentlemen opposite. They did not, when this question was first brought forward, expect anything that was immoderate or demand anything that he thought was selfish. They knew that this was a question which touched very closely many of their principles; and they did think, perhaps somewhat presumptuously, looking back on the past, that they were entitled to be consulted, in some respects, as to the general principles and drift of legislation which grated harshly on their sympathies. They did think that some consideration would have been paid to their objections; and certainly they had no expectation, when their objections had been urged, that remedies would have been applied that rather increased and aggravated those objections than otherwise. (Hear, hear.) But they were very unfortunate. They were very inconsistent too. He admitted to the hon. gentleman that they had been divided and they had been beaten. That was the moral they had to learn from the lesson of the session. (Hear, hear.) There had been a separation, he could not say in feeling, but of thought and sympathy, with regard to this bill among the Dissenting bodies, especially as represented in that House—far more separation in the House than out of it—(Hear, hear)—for he could aver of his own personal knowledge that there was scarcely a Dissenting organisation in the country that had not pronounced condemnation of this bill. (Hear, hear.) Consider-

ing that they were at all events a fair moiety of the party now in power—considering that they never made any excessive demands even for their own principles of those who held others, and considering the general temper and feeling of the country in regard to questions like this, he did not think that they had been dealt with considerably, and with a fair view to meet the objections that they had candidly urged against the provisions of this bill. (Hear, hear.) He would not urge this further than was necessary on the Treasury Bench. Once bit twice shy. (Hear, hear.) They had almost all the measures in which they were most interested chat out with something like contumely—not in this House only, but in the other House during the present session. Their Burials Bill was referred to a select committee, which bestowed the utmost care and consideration on its provisions in order to divest it of anything that could possibly hurt the feelings of Churchmen. He appealed to the hon. member for South Lancashire (Mr. Croso) whether the general spirit manifested in that committee was not a spirit of concession on both sides. (Hear.) But the bill no sooner came down here than a small select party determined that it should be "talked" out. They bestowed with the Government great pains upon the University Tests Bill. They sent it up imperfect as it was in character—advisedly imperfect—that it might pass in another place; but from excessive caution in religious teaching they had put it in a position that he believed one peer had declared within the last twenty-four hours his opinion that the bill was done for for the present session. (Hear.) He might mention one or two other measures which were in the same category. He must say, looking to all these things, if they, representing the Dissenting community, could stand by and see themselves elbowed out of their principles and rights they would deserve such treatment. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the Education Bill, he would say that he hoped its working in this country would be better than its effect on parties in that House. It had produced a very painful impression on Dissenters generally and on Dissenting representatives in that House. It might be said, and had been said, that the bill, after all, was far more liberal than it looked. He believed it would be found probably to work more smoothly than could be anticipated, for it was an educational measure. But they might be pardoned, he thought, as Nonconformists, for having mistaken—if they had mistaken—the real character and position of that measure. It was the first time in which a measure brought in and advocated on the express ground that it embodied the principles of political equality had failed to recommend itself to the sympathies of the Dissenting body. What they might say with even more distinctness was that it was the very first time that they had sent up a measure at that late season of the year to another place with the confident conviction upon every man's mind that not a single alteration would be made in that measure of any importance, except that which took away its value. (Hear, hear.) It might be a very liberal measure, indeed it might contain in its provisions all that was necessary to illustrate and carry into effect the doctrines of religious equality; but all he had to say was that such honour had not attended all the measures proceeding from the Liberal party. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GLADSTONE: I do not think it would be becoming in me, after the speech of my hon. friend the member for Bradford, if I were to remain altogether silent. My hon. friend has not been content with discussing the Education Bill, but he has thought fit to go into matters and use language concerning the relations between himself and the Government to which it is absolutely necessary I should refer. Speeches somewhat similar we heard on former nights from my hon. friend the member for Merthyr Tydvil, and from my hon. and learned friend the member for Stroud. But my hon. friend the member for Bradford appears to think that the Government labours under the infirmity of deafness, and have failed to receive in their organs of hearing the expressions that they used. The speech of my hon. friend amounts to a reproach to the Government for not having fulfilled the expectations with which they were brought into office. Sir, I am here to deny that statement. (Cheers.) I say fearlessly in the face of my hon. friend, and in the face of any who hold similar language, that if in 1868 we made bold professions to the country—professions involving, as we well knew then, and know now, the greatest responsibility—we have laboured to the utmost of our power, with the whole of our energies, with the whole of our influence, and in no spirit of cold calculation, but in an earnest devotion to our purpose, to redeem those pledges—(cheers)—and I am not here, therefore, to be told with nice analysis of what elements it was made up. I hope in a great degree it was national support to which we owe the position we hold. I am not prepared to admit that my hon. friend, great as is the weight of his character and the respect to which he is justly entitled, speaks the sentiments of all those with whom he is connected in religious matters, because there are others who have sat on these benches for many years, and have earned the respect of all who know them, who have not participated in the severe judgment of my hon. friend. My hon. friend thinks it worthy of him to resort to a proverb, and to say that the time has come when he must say to the Government, "Once bit, twice shy." If my hon. friend has been bitten, by whom has he been bitten? If he has been bitten, he has been bitten only in consequence of expectations he has chosen to form, and which were not justified by facts. We have been thankful to have the independent support of my hon. friend, but that support ceases to be of value when he uses the language of reproach. (Cheers.) I hope my hon. friend will not continue

that support to the Government one moment longer than he thinks it compatible with his honour, and with the conscientious discharge of his duty. For God's sake let him withdraw it when he thinks his doing so will serve the cause he has at heart. (Cheers.) So long as he thinks fit to yield it, we will co-operate with him for every purpose we hold in common, but when we think his opinions and demands exacting, when we think he looks too much to the section of the community which he adorns, and not to the entire body of the nation, we must then recollect that we are the Government of the Queen, and that those who have assumed the high responsibility of administering the affairs of this empire must endeavour to forget the parts in the whole, and must, in the great measures they introduce into the House, propose to themselves no mean, no narrow, no local, no other object than the welfare of the empire at large. (Cheers.) My hon. friend will excuse me if I have spoken with feeling on this subject. I hope that I have not spoken disrespectfully, but when I hear such language coming from a man whom I have always been accustomed to admire for the manner in which he combines strong opinions with the most conciliatory spirit, I cannot help feeling strongly. (Cheers.) And now, with regard to the bill itself, I was very sorry to hear the hon. member for Birmingham issue a proclamation of war against it the moment it is about to pass. We shall be compelled to put our trust in the good sense of the country. I must own I do not think his threatened blast of the trumpet will really rouse the land to the imperfections which mar this bill. Far be it from me to say this is a perfect measure. My right hon. friend near me (Mr. Forster) to whom I myself especially, to whom the Government, the House, and the country owe a debt of gratitude—(cheers)—is the last man who would describe it as a perfect measure. We have had to steer our course amid competing objects and conflicting difficulties. It was with us an absolute necessity—a necessity of honour, and a necessity of policy—to respect and favour the educational establishments and machinery that we found existing in the country. It was impossible for us to join in the language, to adopt the tone, that was conscientiously taken up by some members of the House who look upon these voluntary schools, having in general a denominational character in their origin, as an admirable passing expedient, fit, indeed, to be tolerated for a time, deserving all credit, on account of the motives with which they were founded, but wholly unsatisfactory with regard to their main purpose, and therefore to be supplanted as soon as may be by a better system. That is a fair opinion for gentlemen to entertain, but it has never been the opinion of the Government. My right honourable friend always spoke in this tone when approaching this great work which we desire to make complete, that we ought to have a sentiment of thankfulness that so much of that work is done. I am one of those who hold that in the production of material objects it is never desirable to multiply the establishments of Government beyond what is necessary, but where it is possible to avail ourselves of private energy and zeal. So in this matter of education it is a great mistake and error in our view to think that secular education given by a State machinery is *per se* better than the same education given by a machinery which is voluntary in its character. Setting aside that which is abstractedly desirable, I think we were justified in feeling that this enormous machinery for education which exists in the country ought to be turned to account. (Hear, hear.) It may be viewed theoretically and abstractly in very different lights. Some may think it no better than a beast of burden; some may think it even worse, having its origin from below; some may think it an angel from heaven, that it is the spirit of Christianity working in the minds of men which inspires them with a deep and profound desire not only to give religious knowledge, but every other element of education. I must own that that is in my opinion the truest light. I think it is the greatest mistake to suppose that those who have provided these voluntary schools have been exclusively or narrowly actuated by a spirit of attachment to those points only in which they differ from their fellow Christians. (Cheers.) I believe that having received Christian conviction in its largeness and fulness, a largeness and fulness with which I hope this House will never interfere, that Christian conviction has animated them with a spirit of expansive benevolence which has not stopped short of the principle to which it owed its origin, but has spread itself into a pervading feeling of philanthropy. And as Christianity, since it came into the world, has given a new character to secular philanthropy, so religious zeal has created in this country especially an amount of anxiety never before exhibited for the promotion of a sound secular education. Then, with regard to the other great question, my hon. friend is very much dissatisfied with the plan we have adopted, by which catechisms are excluded from the schools, and by which the Scriptures are only to be used as a text-book, without any Parliamentary declaration or statutory explanation as to their exposition. I will not say a word on that plan, but I cannot see how my hon. friend can conceive that we who have adopted and recommended it are liable to the reproach of having thereby done less than justice to the Nonconformists of this country; and not only done them less than justice, but, as my hon. friend expressly said, marched them through the Valley of Humiliation. Well, I own if the right hon. member for the University of Oxford, who has a kind of official representation of a large portion of the Church, or any other gentleman in a similar position, or any one who has made it his duty to treat the question from

the point of view peculiar to the Church of England; if, for instance, the right hon. member for North Devonshire had complained of having had to march through the Valley of Humiliation, I will not say that the Government might not have admitted the justice of the complaint; for there would have been some ground for it. But my hon. friend cannot deny this—that we have excluded something from the schools, and that that something is the document peculiarly characteristic of the Church of England—(Hear, hear)—and objected to by Dissenters; and that a schoolmaster who may be conscientiously attached to a Nonconformist body will find himself in the school subject to the restraint of common sense, but to no other. Under these circumstances, I hope and believe that a more kindly and generous feeling will be taken in this matter than for once in his life the honourable member for Bradford has been content to take. I must not forget to notice what he said with regard to the course of the Government, whom he appeared to make responsible for the failure of the Burials Bill, and for the anticipated failure of the University Tests Bill; but I think I might find negatively in his own speech proof that for those failures the Government are not to blame. Why were they introduced into his speech? The only effect was to show that my hon. friend was disappointed. Does he think the Government ought to have resigned, or have dissolved Parliament? Because I am not aware that from any other point of view it is possible to make a charge against them. We have had great difficulties to contend with, and we certainly cannot claim from gentlemen opposite—we do not claim from my hon. friend—I do not know that we can claim from any section of this House any other credit than this, which I think the bulk of this House is disposed to give us—reserving their own judgment of particulars—that we, and above all my right hon. friend near me, have striven to deal for the best under the circumstances in which we found ourselves, to smooth difficulties, to allay passions, to avoid anything that would excite or stimulate, to endeavour to bring men more together, to eschew for ourselves all extremes, and not to make our own narrow choice the model of the measure we were presenting to Parliament, but to admit into its composition fairly and freely those great influences which we found swaying the community under which we live. (Cheers.) That is the general principle on which we have acted. We might have taken a more sectional view; but what would have been the result? The result would have been that this great subject of national education, instead of being now launched, with some expressions of disapproval, yet on the whole with prospects which I will say are full of hope and promise, would have been launched, not in the country to extend its beneficial operations, but in this House, set down here on this floor, as another standing barrier between those who sit in different portions of the House, full indeed of hope and promise, but what hope and promise?—the hope and promise that for years to come it would furnish the material for embittered controversy; while, if we cast our eye beyond these walls, it would fall upon neglected districts after district, for the condition of which we should feel shame and humiliation. (Cheers.) I hope the House will excuse me if I have spoken with some little warmth—(cheers)—in repelling the imputations of my hon. friend the member for Bradford. I have endeavoured in these remarks in reference to the bill we are now about to read a third time, to make, on the whole, a fair and equitable statement of what any impartial man, whatever his judgment as to particulars may be, must admit to be the true and substantial merits of the measure. (Loud cheers.)

After a few words from Mr. WHITWELL, and also from Mr. RAIKES, who contended that the Government had not given anything like the advantages they were reported to have given to the Church; and who said that the refusal of the Government to subdivide the school districts would strike a fatal blow at denominationalism,

Mr. STAPLETON said he represented a constituency in which Nonconformity was very powerful, constituting, at least, two-thirds of the Liberal party; and he admitted that, having given an unvarying support to the Government upon this bill, he had received some complaints from constituents who were favourable to the views of his hon. friend (Mr. Miall). But those gentlemen were open to argument; they used no threat as to the withdrawal of their support, nor did he believe that such a result was likely to follow from the course he had conscientiously pursued. His feeling was that, while perhaps many Liberal members would have liked a measure more conformable with their views, something was due to those who had been the pioneers in this matter, and of whose exertions in the cause of education they had availed themselves; and the Government had done no more than they might reasonably have been expected to do in giving additional grants to denominational schools.

Sir J. PAKINGTON said that he heard the speech of the hon. member for Birmingham with great regret, which was increased when he heard that of the hon. member for Bradford, whose comments upon the conduct of the Government he thought wholly undeserved, and such as justly called for the rebuke which had been administered by the Prime Minister. Now that the bill had passed he thought that it was the duty of all parties in the country to concur in giving it a fair trial. Imperfect as the measure might be, especially with respect to the admission of the ballot principle, he believed that when it became the law of the land it would answer its purposes, and he certainly could not help congratulating the Government on the successful issue of their great

labours. It was his belief that as the effects of the bill became from day to day more visible, its aim and object would become more precise and accurate, and that it would fully meet the evils with which it was intended to cope. If hon. gentlemen below the gangway had not got all that they wished, he did not think that they had any just ground of complaint. The schools to be formed under the bill would be essentially national, and though he regretted the blot in it which prevented the Holy Scriptures being taught in the schools, he believed it would promote the welfare of the country at large, and be hailed with gratitude by all parties as the effect of a happy combination of great ability with temper, by means of which his right hon. friend had been enabled to bring his labours to a conclusion. (Hear.)

Mr. MULLY wished that the same feeling of conciliation and the same appreciation of motives animated great orators on both sides of the House, but he could not help regretting that the fervid eloquence and brilliant declamation of a Liberal Prime Minister should upon this question have been poured more upon friends than foes. The bill had been described as unconstitutional in respect to the powers it gave, but those who sat on the Ministerial side accepted the measure because they believed that those powers would be carried out in the spirit manifested by the right hon. gentleman's speeches. He only trusted that the fine energy, temper, and perseverance which the right hon. gentleman had exhibited in the conduct of the bill would be for a long time yet displayed in dealing with hostile town councils and parsimonious ratepayers.

Mr. HERMON hoped that the hon. member for Birmingham would not, especially in view of the convulsions which now threatened the whole of Europe, engage in an agitation which would tend to prevent the measure working successfully.

Colonel BARNESFORD denied that the hon. member for Bradford (Mr. Miall) represented the whole of the Nonconformist bodies on that question. He believed that he did not represent a tenth part of them. After the Government had proposed their amendments he (Colonel Barnesford), received from Mr. Spurgeon, who could gather a larger number of Nonconformists under his banner than any one else, a letter urging him to support them.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER, who was received with loud cheers, said he should ill repay the kindness with which he had been treated throughout the long discussions on that bill if he detained the House more than a few minutes; but, having had charge of the bill, he felt that he must take leave of it in a few remarks. He would first say in reference to the remarks of his hon. colleague (Mr. Miall), that in their endeavours to secure the means of education for every child in the country, it had been a great grief to the Government to find that they could not do that without differing in opinion from, and hurting the feelings of, many with whom they had been in the habit of working; but they also felt that, however they might regret that, it ought not to stand in the way of the success of this great national question. (Hear, hear.) Let him add that he was confident that, notwithstanding what his hon. friend had said that day, the time would come when he would do with that great measure what he had done with respect to other measures of education—that was, candidly to acknowledge that he was not sorry that the opposition which he offered was not successful. He (Mr. Forster) chiefly rose, however, to offer his thanks to members on both sides of the House, and in every quarter of the House, for the assistance he had received in pressing forward that measure. When he brought it forward he said he was sure the question would not be regarded as a party one, and his expectation had been entirely fulfilled. There was another question which the Government felt compelled to introduce, and which had led to rather strong feelings; but he could not complain that hon. gentlemen opposite objected to the introduction of the ballot. As regarded the purely educational question all feelings which belonged to Tory, Whig, or Radical were lost in the desire on both sides of the House to secure a great national measure of education. (Cheers.) He agreed with the Prime Minister and the right hon. gentleman opposite (Sir J. Pakington) that the measure was not perfect; but he could not agree with his hon. colleague that no measure should be passed which would not last twenty years. His expectations were much more moderate, and if the bill should require amendment within two or three years, he should not any the less feel that they had done their duty in passing it. (Hear, hear.) The principle of the bill had been adhered to; while the mode of carrying it out was being improved. That principle was that there should be efficient schools throughout the kingdom, and compulsory provision for them if it were needed, but not unless it were proved to be needed. It was in those words that he described the bill when he introduced it; it would be sent up to the other House with the principle thus described still in it, and he had a sanguine hope that in the other House it would receive as patient an investigation as it had met with there. (Cheers.) Inasmuch as it had been settled by that bill that, as soon as it became law, the Metropolitan Board should be elected, London would have the proud position, befitting its place in the kingdom, of first setting to work in the matter of education, and he hoped great efforts would be made to secure a successful commencement. ("Hear, hear," from Mr. S. Morley.) He was glad to hear his hon. friend the member for Bristol, whose influence in the City of London was so usefully employed—(cheers)—taking that remark to himself. As regarded the remarks of the hon. member for Stoke, he could assure him that Lord de Grey and himself, and the Govern-

ment generally, were fully aware of the onerous nature of the responsibility which rested upon them. Whatever might be the ultimate decision as to whether there should be a special educational Minister or not, he felt bound to acknowledge the great assistance which he had received from his noble friend, and he could not hope that the measure would be carried into operation satisfactorily without his noble friend's able assistance and superintendence. (Hear, hear.) When the Government brought forward the bill, circumstances were very different from what they were now, and he was sure that even those who had desired that the bill should be postponed for a year must on that ground, if on no other, be glad that they did not obtain their wish. (Cheers.) He was confident that neither the country, or hon. members who had raised objections to the measure, would regret that they had not built a wall around schools designed to receive the outcast and the destitute through which no ray of Christian light could penetrate, and had not by Act of Parliament declared that parents who desired to have religious combined with secular instruction should not be allowed to have their wish gratified. (Loud cheers.)

The bill was then read a third time and passed, amid cheers.

The Army Enlistment Bill was also read a third time and passed.

The third reading of the Gun Licences Bill provoked a strong protest from Mr. Read, Mr. Pell, Mr. Whalley, and Mr. P. TAYLOR, the last denouncing it as a game-preserving bill, and an attempt to disarm the people. Mr. WHITE quoted "Aristotle" against it; and Mr. Fordyce, Mr. Parker, Mr. Crauford and Mr. Macfie declaimed against its application to Scotland. Mr. Lowe, in defending it, disclaimed the intention attributed to him of strengthening the game laws. He admitted that he wished to check poaching, and the barbarous practice of carrying arms.

The remainder of the sitting was occupied with the committee of supply. Before the Speaker left the chair there was a rather sharp conversation about a grant of gun-metal for the statue of Lord Gough in Dublin. The Government offered a money vote, but the Irish members professed to be insulted by the proposal, and refused anything but gun-metal, which in the end the Government agreed to give.

At the evening sitting, Mr. P. A. TAYLOR called attention to the fact that two tradesmen of Evesham had been refused commissions in a local rifle corps on account of their social position. The opposition, it appeared, came not from the Lord Lieutenant, but from the officers of the battalion. General LINDSAY and Mr. CARDWELL both protested against allowing social considerations to sway the choice of officers.

THE CENSUS BILL.

On the second reading of the Census Bill, Mr. DILLWYN asked for some assurance that the Government would not attempt to take a religious census.

Mr. HAYGATE, on the other hand, was of opinion that the religion of the country ought to be ascertained by direct inquiry from each individual, for the religious census of 1854 was entirely fallacious.

Mr. BASS also urged the Government to take a religious census, and to ascertain other important facts, particularly as to the occupations of the people.

Mr. MIALL, in reply to the hon. member for Leicestershire (Mr. Heygate), stated that the Dissenters were quite as ready as Churchmen to have a perfect and true census, and he believed that the Government had exercised a wise discretion in not insisting on that mode which was evidently in the mind of the hon. member. (Hear, hear.) It was impossible to have a true representation of the religious opinions of the people by a house-to-house inquiry. According to the arguments used in the course of the discussion on the Education Bill, a large number of people had no religion at all. ("Oh!" and cries of "Hear.") It had been one of the strongest arguments for passing the Education Bill, that many of the parents were people who would give their children no religious education, because they had no religion themselves, and what was wanted was that they should be put down in a religious census as members of the Church of England. ("No, no!") The inmates of gaols and poorhouses, though very few of them might really be Dissenters or Church of England people, yet they would all profess to be members of the Establishment rather than say that they were of no religion at all. Were they, then, to have a fraudulent census, or a true representation of the opinions of the people? He contended that as things now stood in reference to the Established Church, which legally embraced the whole population, they ought not to attempt to draw any inference from a house-to-house inquiry. (Hear, hear.)

Sir J. PAKINGTON said it seemed to be the duty of the Government to include the religion of the country in the approaching census, unless they had some really good reason for omitting it. (Hear, hear.) Ten years ago the Scottish people objected to an indication of religious opinions being included in the census, but now they had withdrawn that objection. (Cries of "No.") Such he inferred to be the case from what had fallen from the Secretary of State; and the Irish people likewise had no objection to the religious opinions of their country being included in the census. The Church of England people in this country, and the Roman Catholics likewise, had no objection, and when this was the case, there ought to be some very strong reason why, if a few Nonconformists objected, they should overrule the inclinations of all the rest of the country. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member for Bradford plainly stated that the Nonconformists of England had no objection to a religious census, provided it was a true one. Then

the whole question was at an end, and the Government should so draw the bill as to make it effect what all parties were in favour of—namely, the taking of the census in a true and honest manner. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BAUCZ was bound to say that memorials had come to the Home Office, especially from Scotland, urging the Government to have a religious census. In Scotland there was the same opposition to a religious census ten years ago that existed in England. He, therefore, rejoiced to receive memorials from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, also from the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, insisting upon a religious census; and it was on the strength of these memorials that he stated that the Government would willingly accede to the desire of the people of England and Scotland. But he had since been inundated by memorials from the United Presbyterians, and even from vast numbers of the Free Church of Scotland, solemnly protesting against this, and declaring that the representations received from the General Assemblies of the Established and Free Churches of Scotland did not represent the general feeling of the people. He was bound to act on the same principle in England and Scotland, and not to enforce a religious census. With regard to a religious census, it was somewhat remarkable that each denomination was anxious for it if each could have it in its own way; but that was impossible. On the other hand, there was much in what had been stated so clearly and honestly by the hon. member for Bradford (Mr. Miall), that there was every reason to believe the returns when made would not give a real representation. Reference had been made to the case of Ireland; but Ireland was mainly an agricultural population. The large towns were practically few. There were but three religions. The remaining numbers were extremely small; and there was no difficulty in ascertaining what was the religion of the three great bodies. There were not, as in this country, those large numbers in the great towns who hardly felt or professed any religion, and who felt to be reckoned as belonging to the State Church. The owner of a house had to make a return of the religion of the inmates, and when the number of these often amounted to forty, it would be seen how little reliance could be placed on the accuracy of the return in that respect. The Nonconformists were extremely anxious that a religious census should be taken with reference to the church or chapel accommodation afforded by particular denominations and the attendance on a particular day; but there were many reasons why such a census could not be relied on as giving a really fair representation of the state of the religious denominations. The attendance on the particular day would be far more full than on other days, owing to the action of the ministers, and the people themselves acting from honest emulation between different denominations, and where such organisation was required, the advantage would be on the side of the Nonconformists. The Government would be happy to make a compromise, and to adopt both forms if they could—(Hear, hear.)—but he feared from the inquiries he had made that it would not be accepted, and unless there was a willing co-operation in that which could not be made compulsory, the result would not be such as to command confidence.

Mr. BARNESFORD HOPE said that the Home Secretary wanted a religious census, and had argued strongly in favour of one; but the hon. member for Bradford and those whom he led were afraid, and, therefore, were not to have those valuable statistics which the Government desired. The Government had gone so far as to offer to take the census both ways, and he willingly accepted the offer. (Hear, hear.) They all accepted it. (No, no!) Well, then, those who objected were afraid; they were afraid of the census in one shape, and doubly afraid of it in two shapes. (Hear, hear.) But if we took the census in both shapes, we should get everything that was wanted. We should have the estimates of the religions of the people out of their own mouths, and also by their works. The Government would accept that, and the great majority of the people, if not acted upon by stump speeches, would accept it too. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. R. FOWLER hoped hon. gentlemen opposite would give their assent to the very reasonable proposition which had been made by the Home Secretary. Mr. CANDLISH trusted the right hon. gentleman would adhere to the bill in the shape in which it stood. Mr. J. G. TALBOT was anxious that the question should be really and thoroughly discussed, and should like to have an assurance that an opportunity for doing so would be afforded on the motion for going into committee. Mr. CRAUFORD observed that Churchmen themselves were very much divided, and that if there were a religious census the numbers of High Churchmen, Broad Churchmen, and Low Churchmen ought to be ascertained. Mr. MACFIE expressed himself as favourable to the proposal made by the Home Secretary.

Mr. M'LAREN pointed out that the objections to a religious census prevailed chiefly in large towns. Mr. ILLINGWORTH was of opinion that the chief importance of religious statistics was to discover how many heathens there were in the country. He objected to political capital being sought to be made out of the numbers of the several religious bodies. Mr. A. SEYMOUR looked upon such statistics as being most valuable. Mr. W. FOWLER did not see how a religious census could be properly taken by going from house to house. Mr. CHADWICK saw no difficulty whatever in taking a correct religious census. He trusted the Home Secretary would take into consideration the five recommendations made by the Statistical Society. Mr. Alderman Lusk begged

hon. members to allow the bill to be read a second time, as there had been quite enough talk about it. The bill was then read a second time, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to three o'clock.

THE ALLEGED SECRET TREATY.

On Monday Mr. DISRAELI interrogated the Government about the authenticity of the projected treaty between France and Prussia published in the *Times* of yesterday. Although the Prime Minister had intimated that it would not be consistent with his duty to go into any discussion of the document at present, Mr. Disraeli postponed his question until the motion for going into Supply, to obtain an opportunity of entering more fully into the subject than he could have done on a mere question. And, first, he made a grave complaint of the delay which had occurred in producing and printing the correspondence, which he assumed could not be very voluminous, as the Government, by its own confession, had been taken by surprise. He premised, too, that if the projected treaty were included in the correspondence with explanations his remarks would be useless, and if it were not the correspondence would deserve the same epithet. Disclaiming all desire to embarrass the Government, he insisted on the importance in the public interest of asking for information, looking to the impending close of the session, the immense scale on which the peace of Europe had been broken, and the discordant statements of statesmen and sovereigns as to the causes of the war, which he raised a laugh by attributing to the imperfect means of communication characteristic of the present scientific age. The startling project on which he wished to question the Government, Mr. Disraeli remarked, involved considerable alteration in the present settlement of Europe, and it contemplated the military occupation and final conquest of Belgium. Such a design he regarded as a misfortune to Europe and an injury to England; and, while earnestly hoping that it would never be attempted, he reminded the House that, if it were, the engagements which had been entered into by this country in contemplation of such an event would require the gravest consideration. He asked the Government whether they could lay any information before the House which would throw any light on the document published by the *Times*; whether the offer it contained had recently been renewed; and whether the policy it indicated was likely to influence either of the belligerents.

Mr. GLADSTONE commenced his reply by regretting the delay in producing the papers, which he explained had been necessary and unavoidable. With regard to the document, of which it was impossible to exaggerate the importance, it was not in his power at present to give any detailed information, nor was it within the limits of his duty to make any remarks on its contents, nor could he give any opinion as to the mode in which it had been communicated to the world. But its publication could not fail to draw from the spontaneous action of the two Powers concerned all the declarations necessary for its elucidation. The time must be close at hand when the surprise which this document had created must be cleared up by full explanations, and then Mr. Disraeli would be justified in repeating his questions.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

On the motion of the PRIME MINISTER, it was agreed that hereafter Government business shall have precedence on Tuesdays; and Mr. GLADSTONE readily consented to an understanding, pressed for by Mr. Disraeli, that the rule should be relaxed if it were required to raise a discussion on the war.

The High Court of Justice and Appellate Jurisdiction, the Pilotage, and the Medical Acts Amendment Bills were withdrawn for the session; and the HOME SECRETARY intimated the strong opinion of the Government that it is inexpedient to proceed with the Sequestration Bill, the Union of Benefices and the Resignation of Benefices Bills, measures which have come down from the Lords and are in charge of private members.

THE PRIVY SEAL.

Sir C. DILKE called attention to the recent appointment of Lord Halifax to the office of Lord Privy Seal, and moved a resolution declaring that, at a time when reductions are being made in the lower appointments in the public service, that high sinecure should be abolished.

Mr. GLADSTONE pointed out that it was absolutely necessary for the transaction of Government business that there should be some members in the Ministry not absorbed in and overworked by departmental business, and with leisure to conduct through the House of Lords measures connected with departments not represented there. The Prime Minister's view was supported by Mr. BOUVIER and Colonel W. PATTEN, who maintained that the heads of departments were overworked, and the latter mentioned that when he was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster he had been called on to relieve the overworked Home Office of business with which he had no departmental connection. Mr. NAVILLE GRENVILLE also opposed the motion, and after some remarks from Mr. MACPHE and Mr. A. KINNAIRD, it was rejected by 170 to 60.

To this there succeeded a brief conversation on the Roehampton Gate of Richmond Park, the relations between the Cape Colony, the South African Republic, and the Orange Free State, and the plans for the enlargement of the National Gallery. On this last head Mr. LOWE stated that a supplemental estimate would be immediately introduced for providing all the additional accommodation which was likely to be needed for some time.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Estimates. Class I (Public Buildings), containing forty-one votes, was agreed to; and Class II. (Public Offices), of which some half-dozen votes had been left over from the last committee, was also completed.

The Turnpike Acts Continuance, &c., Bill was considered in committee, and several other bills were forwarded a stage.

The House adjourned at a quarter past two o'clock.

THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR.

Up to Monday there had been no important collision between the belligerents—both sides being engaged in organising their forces for a gigantic campaign, and the railroads on either side of the Rhine being almost entirely monopolised for many days for the carrying of troops and war material. But there has been one train a day for ordinary passengers. A telegram from Forbach states that a body of Prussian troops advanced as far as Curing, and were attacked and repulsed by the French foot chasseurs, while a regiment of mounted chasseurs made a reconnaissance on Prussian territory. On Friday the Prussians blew up the Baden side of the bridge at Kehl, opposite Strasburg, in order to impede the advance of the French. It was a magnificent and costly international work. The explosion was terrific. The bridge turrets were destroyed, and the debris thrown as far as the French shore. The object was of course to delay the French advance, though, according to some accounts, most of the Imperial troops had left northward. The bulk of the French army seems to be concentrating on the line of the Saar, but there is also a large force assembling in the triangle formed by Nancy, Belfort, and Strasburg. The general opinion is that if the French assume the offensive they will at once invade Rhenish Prussia, and attack in force the Prussian army supposed to be concentrating between Mayence and Coblenz.

The Emperor was not expected to leave Paris before this day, accompanied by Prince Napoleon and the Prince Imperial. Later rumours favour the impression that he is about to attempt a visit to Berlin by way of the Baltic. Nancy is supposed to be the French head-quarters, and no serious fighting is expected before the end of this week. Relative to the general disposition of the forces, the *Daily News* of Monday says:—"It is behind the frontier of the Rhine Province of Prussia that France has massed her troops, in the first place, because the road from Paris to Berlin lies straight through the territory; and in the second, because it is a central position with respect to Germany, enabling France to advance against the Southern States by Strasburg, crossing the middle Rhine into Baden, or secondly against Frankfurt, or thirdly against the lower portion of the Rhine Province, in order through it to reach Westphalia and Hanover. It is therefore at or near Thionville, Metz, or Nancy that the great bulk of the army destined for the German campaign is now to be found. The extreme left is formed by General Lamirault's Fourth Corps, which, posted at Thionville, commands the roads to Saarlouis and Trèves. About fifteen miles further south, ascending the Moselle, we come to Metz, a first-class stronghold, the centre of the defence of France between the Meuse and the Rhine, where Marshal Bazaine commands the Third Corps. The Imperial Guard, under General Bourbaki, which is to form a reserve, is at Nancy, the old capital of Lorraine, where the Emperor Napoleon will in the first place have his head-quarters. All these places have a direct communication with Paris through Chalons, and with Strasburg. At this latter fortress the First Corps, that of Marshal M'Mahon, lately stood. The Second Corps, under General Frossard, is at St. Avold, and Marshal Canrobert commands a large force at the camp of Chalons. We do not attempt to estimate the strength of corps which are receiving accessions of force from day to day, and which have been said to compose a total of 350,000 men; but enough has been said to show the starting-point of the French on their campaign."

The French have a large force collecting at Dunkirk and Cherbourg. The latter will, it is thought, consist of 30,000 men, and be placed under the command of General de Montauban (the conqueror of Pekin), to be landed on the Hanoverian coast, in the neighbourhood of Bockenhor, or to ascend the Elbe as far as possible towards Harburg. The latter may be sent to operate on the Prussian coast in the Baltic. The *Daily News* says:—"It seems probable that the Emperor will make use of his superiority in order to attempt something against the communications of the German Army from the North. With a firm hold upon some port of the North Sea, which he would fortify, and into which he could throw reinforcements, he might under certain circumstances

make the position of the German commander opposed to the main Army of the Empire one of extreme anxiety. Admiral Mautac has been charged to reconnoitre the coast to ascertain the most favourable point for a landing, and the name of General Montauban is mentioned as the officer who is collecting troops for the expedition. This, however, is one of those contingencies against which it will be the prudence of the Prussian Government to provide, and it is stated that with an eye to it General Vogel von Falckenstein, who had been at first nominated to a Southern command, has been appointed to the express duty of defending the coast." For the purposes of command the military forces of Germany have been organised into three great armies, under the command of Prince Charles, the Crown Prince (in South Germany), and General Herwarth. The main body will probably muster behind the Rhine fortresses, leaving Rhenish Prussia for a time open to the enemy.

The *Francais* mentions three plans of campaign between which the Emperor will probably choose—first, to advance by the valley of the Moselle, entering Prussia under cover of Sierck, Thionville, and Metz, to meet the Prussians on the lines of the Sarre; second, to advance into the Palatinate, *vid* Wissembourg and Landau; third, to force the Rhine simultaneously at several points. According to official reports the Prussian troops who at first appeared to be massing between Luxembourg and the Palatinate have now withdrawn towards the fortresses of Coblenz and Mayence.

It is announced from Paris that France has declined the mediation offered by the English Government in virtue of the Treaty of 1856, on the ground that the present circumstances do not come within the scope of that treaty. Count Bismark has stated in the North German Parliament that Prussia had also rejected the mediation of England.

A Prussian telegram states that on Sunday morning early a detachment of thirty men of the 17th Regiment of Lancers crossed the frontier and interrupted the railway communication between Saarguemines and Hagenau. The one viaduct was blown up and the rails torn up in several places. The object was to embarrass the communication along the frontier of Rhenish Bavaria, which might be used against them to great advantage by the French. The line is probably broken near Saarguemines. This would seem to show that the French are either not in the immediate neighbourhood of that locality or not very much on the alert. If the breach be beyond repair, the direct line from Strasburg, by Hagenau, Birtzche, Saarguemines, Saarbrück, and Saarlouis to Trèves is no longer available.

The correspondents of the French press generally concur in representing the Prussians as making a retrograde movement, and manifesting an intention to await the French attack on the line of the Rhine.

Late advices state that the French base of operations extends from Strasburg to Thionville, the centre being established at Birtzche and St. Avold, with the second line at Metz, capable of extension to the centre and to Thionville. All the headquarters of the various army corps are established in fortified places.

Ten or eleven French war steamers passed Hastings nine miles off the coast at eight on Monday morning bound east. Their destination is supposed to be Kiel. The fleet passed Dover at ten o'clock on Monday morning on its way to the North. The steamers were going at a rapid rate, owing to the high speed of their engines and the flood tide, and formed a long line. Hundreds of people assembled on the sea front to see the fleet pass by. The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—

Expectation turns more eagerly every hour for news from the Baltic, where the first blow is likely to be struck. The eyes of naval and political men are instinctively fixed on Kiel, the finest German harbour within the Sound, and a place whose position under present circumstances is likely to make it the turning-point of all the movements in that quarter. Occupied by the French, with the corps under Montauban, and protected by the French fleet in the roadstead, it would serve as a base of operations against Hanover, and in favour of Denmark, if that little kingdom consents to accept French aid. From Kiel, in a few hours, the whole of North Schleswig might be moved to declare itself emancipated from Prussia and restored to its old allegiance. How far the sentiments of the people have changed since the war that annexed the Duchies to the North German Confederation remains to be seen; but the Treaty of Prague acknowledges explicitly their right to pronounce upon their ultimate fate, and binds Prussia to abide by their choice if they decide for union with Denmark. It is not known what number of troops General Montauban's expedition consists of; but once established at Kiel, he might easily be reinforced to almost any extent, if the French have the undisturbed command of the sea. The Emperor will, in all likelihood, defer any decisive movement from Metz or Nancy until tidings reach him from the shores of the Baltic, where he counts with confidence on initiatory success.

Another telegram from Saarbrück, Rhenish Prussia, dated July 24, says:—"A French division is quartered at Forbach. Early this morning a skirmish occurred at Griseville, when the French troops were driven back with the loss of ten men. There was no loss on the Prussian side. The Prussian soldiers assert that the needle-gun proved fully equal

to the Chassepot. Yesterday the French Custom-house officers opposite Saarlouis fired upon a Prussian cavalry patrol and wounded two horses. A company of Prussian infantry has captured the French Custom-house at Schrecklingen, near Saarlouis, together with the treasury. The Customs officers were killed or taken prisoners. On the Prussian side one officer was wounded."

One of our correspondents (says the *Pall Mall*) writes that all the available lodgings in Trèves were taken possession of on Saturday morning for the forces which were to arrive at night. The number expected was 40,000. On Saturday and yesterday some 200,000 were expected to arrive from various parts of Germany to the line between Trèves and Kehl (Strasbourg). The number of German volunteers seems to be very great. The Prussian authorities naturally prefer the volunteers, who often come armed and in a much better state of mind than the men who are forced to join the ranks.

THE EMPEROR AND HIS PROPOSED TREATY WITH PRUSSIA.

The *Times* of Monday publishes the text of a proposed treaty between France and Prussia. The leading journal throws no light upon the way in which it has come to their hands: but it is declared to be authentic. "Though it speaks of an offensive and defensive alliance between the two Powers now in the field against one another, though it stipulates for the acquisition of Luxembourg by France, and the fusion of the States of South Germany in the North German Confederation, though it contemplates an invasion and conquest of Belgium by the Emperor aided on sea and land by the King of Prussia against every opposing Power, it is not the figment of an idle dreaming brain. The document is, we are assured, genuine. It will, indeed, be seen after the most cursory examination that it was not framed yesterday. It begins with a recital of the existence of ties of friendship between the King of Prussia and the Emperor of the French and of their mutual resolution to bind more closely together the happy relations of good fellowship and neighbourly feeling between their two countries. With this object it declares the two Powers have come to an understanding on the questions in which they are interested, and then proceeds to embody their agreement in the treaty that follows. We have, in a word, before us the draught of a proposed treaty between France and Prussia, and it is not difficult to extract from the paper itself the secret of its origin. We might easily deduce from internal evidence, if we were not otherwise assured of the truth, that the proposed treaty was submitted by France to Prussia as a basis for the removal of all difficulties that threatened to interrupt the peace between them. It may be assumed to have been offered to the Court of Berlin at a time when the neutralisation of Luxembourg had not been completed, and when the stipulations of the Treaty of Prague were still seriously debated. Hence the Emperor proposes to admit and recognise all the acquisitions Prussia made at the end of the war in Bohemia, while the King was to bind himself to facilitate the acquisition by France of Luxembourg by pressing a sale of Luxembourg on the King of Holland at a price to be paid by the Emperor. No opposition was to be raised on the part of France to a Federal union of all the South German States, except Austria, with the existing Confederation of the North; and, again, the King of Prussia was invited to bind himself, in case the Emperor should be drawn by circumstances to throw his troops into Belgium or to conquer it, to furnish the assistance of his arms to France and to support her with all his forces, by sea and land, against every Power that might in such an event declare war against France. A covenant of offensive and defensive alliance concludes the draught agreement. The proposed treaty was rejected at the time it was tendered, and it is not easy to see what Prussia would have gained by accepting it, except the destruction of the barrier Luxembourg interposes between France and herself, unless, indeed, war was threatened as the alternative of the treaty. It was rejected, but, unless we are misinformed—and, speaking with all reserve on a subject of such importance, we are satisfied that our information is correct—the treaty has been recently again offered as a condition of peace. Means have been taken to let it be understood that the old offer was open, and that a ready acceptance of it would save Prussia from attack. The suggestion has not been favourably received, and, on the contrary, matters have, as we know, been so far advanced that it would now be impossible to arrest the progress of the war by such a *coup de théâtre*."

THE IMPERIAL MANIFESTO.

The Emperor has addressed the following proclamation to the French people:—

Frenchmen,—There are solemn moments in the life of peoples when the national honour, violently excited, imposes itself with irresistible force, dominates all interests, and alone takes in hand the direction of the destinies of the country. One of those decisive hours has sounded for France. Prussia, to whom, both during and since the war of 1866, we have shown the most conciliatory disposition, has taken no account of our good wishes and our forbearance. Launched on the path of invasion, she has aroused defiance everywhere, necessitated exaggerated armaments, and has turned Europe into a camp where nothing but uncertainty and fear of the morrow reigns. A last incident has come to show the instability of international relations, and to prove the gravity of the situation. In presence of the new pretensions of Prussia, we made our protestations to be heard. They were evaded, and were followed on the part of Prussia by contemptuous proceedings. Our country has resented this with profound irritation, and immediately a cry for war resounded from one end of France to the other.

It only remains to us to confide our destinies to the decision of arms. We do not make war on Germany, whose independence we respect. Let us wish that the peoples who compose the great German nationality may freely dispose of their destinies. For ourselves, we demand the establishment of a state of affairs which shall guarantee our security and assure our future. We wish to conquer a lasting peace based on the true interests of peoples, and to put an end to this precarious state in which all nations employ their resources to arm themselves one against the other. The glorious flag which we once more unfurl before those who have provoked us is the same which bore throughout Europe the civilising ideas of our great revolution. It represents the same principles, and inspires the same devotion. Frenchmen.

I place myself at the head of that valiant army which is animated by love of duty and of country. It knows its own worth, it has seen how since victory has accompanied its march in the four quarters of the world. I shall take my son with me despite his youth, he knows what are the duties which his name imposes upon him, and he is proud to bear his share in the dangers of those who fight for their country. May God bless our efforts! A great people which defends a just cause is invincible.

NAPOLEON.

THE EMPEROR AND HIS FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE WAR.

On Saturday afternoon the Emperor received the members of the Legislative Body. The President, M. Schneider, addressed his Majesty as follows:—

Sire,—The Legislative Body has terminated its labours, after voting all the subsidies and laws necessary for the defence of the country. Thus the Chamber has joined in an effective proof of patriotism. The real author of the war is not he by whom it was declared, but he who rendered it necessary. There will be but one voice among the people of both hemispheres, throwing, namely, the responsibility of the war upon Prussia, which, intoxicated by unexpected success, and encouraged by our patience and our desire to preserve to Europe the blessings of peace, has imagined that she could conspire against our security, and wound with impunity our honour. Under these circumstances France will know how to do her duty. The most ardent wishes will follow you to the army, the command of which you assume, accompanied by your son, who, anticipating the duties of maturer age, will learn, by your side, how to serve his country. Behind you—behind our army, accustomed to carry the noble flag of France—stands the whole nation ready to recruit it. Leave the Regency, without anxiety, in the hands of our august Sovereign the Empress. To the authority commanded by her great qualities, of which ample evidence has already been given, Her Majesty will add the strength now afforded by the liberal institutions so gloriously inaugurated by your Majesty. Sire, the heart of the nation is with you, and with your valiant army. The Emperor replied:—"I experience the most lively satisfaction, on the eve of my departure for the army, at being able to thank you for the patriotic support which you have afforded my Government. A war is right when it is waged with the assent of the country, and the approval of the country's representatives. You are right to remember the words of Montesquieu, that 'the real author of war is not he by whom it is declared, but he who renders it necessary.' We have done all in our power to avert the war, and I may say that it is the whole nation that has, by its irresistible impulse, dictated our decisions. I confide to you the Empress, who will call you around her if circumstances should require it. She will know how to fulfil courageously the duty which her position imposes upon her. I take my son with me; in the midst of the army he will learn to serve his country. Resolved energetically to pursue the great mission which has been entrusted to me, I have faith in the success of our arms; for I know that behind me France has risen to her feet, and that God protects her."

The Duke de Gramont has addressed a circular to the French representatives abroad, dated yesterday, with the object of proving that the candidature of Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern had been mysteriously promoted by Prussia, in the hope that France would be obliged to accept it as an accomplished fact. The circular states:—

Already in 1869 M. Benedetti had informed the Prussian Cabinet that France could not allow that a Prussian prince should reign over Spain. Count Bismarck declared to M. Benedetti that France had no cause to concern herself about a combination which he himself considered unrealistic. Herr von Thile, the Prussian Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, gave his word of honour that the Prince of Hohenzollern was not and could not become a serious candidate for the crown of Spain. If the sincerity of such positive official assurances could be suspected, diplomatic communications would cease to be a pledge of European peace, and would be merely a trap and a danger. In suddenly violating her pledged word, Prussia addressed to us a positive challenge, and we were therefore obliged to insist in order to acquire the certainty that the renunciation was this time final and seriously meant. It is but just that the Court of Berlin should bear in history the responsibility of a war which it had the means of avoiding, but which indeed it desired. Under what circumstances has Prussia sought this struggle? It is while France, after giving for four years constant proofs of moderation, has abstained with a scrupulousness which was perhaps exaggerated, from invoking against her the treaties concluded under the mediation of the Emperor himself, but the wilful forgetfulness of which is shown by all acts of a Government which thought already to free itself of its engagements at the very moment of subscribing to them. Europe was the witness of our conduct, and could compare it with that of Prussia. May it pronounce to-day upon the justice of our cause! Whatever may be the fate of the battle, we await without uneasiness the judgment of our contemporaries, as well as that of posterity.

In reference to the allegation contained in this circular, the Prussian Government officially declares that neither Count Bismarck, nor Baron Thile, ex-

changed with M. Benedetti a single word on the subject of the candidature of Prince Hohenzollern to the throne of Spain, since they were first aware of the fact that the Spanish crown had been offered to the Prince.

(Continued on page 715.)

Postscript.

Wednesday, July 27th, 1870.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE PROJECT TREATY.

Lord GRANVILLE stated in answer to Lord Cairns that this document would appear in the Berlin official journal of that day. It appeared to be in the handwriting of M. Benedetti. It was, however, stated by the French Ambassador (M. de Lavalette) that it originated with M. Bismarck, but that it never had a serious basis, and was rejected by both parties.

CLERICAL DISABILITIES BILL.

Lord HOUGHTON moved the second reading of this bill. The Bishop of London did not object to its main provisions, but should move the omission of certain clauses in committee. The bill was read a second time.

The Army Enlistment Bill was also read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PROJECT TREATY.

At the two o'clock sitting Mr. GLADSTONE made a similar statement in reply to Mr. Samuelson to that made by Lord GRANVILLE in the Upper House.

GLEBE LOAN (IRELAND) BILL.

Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE moved the second reading of this bill, the object of which is to empower the Irish Public Works Commissioners to lend money to Irish parishes for the building of glebe-houses, on the same terms as they would advance money to any other public work.

Mr. CANDLISH opposed the second reading on the ground that it was an endowment, and involved, in his opinion, a violation of the principle that the State must not endow any religion whatever, and more particularly all forms of religion. It might be all very well to say that the Government had brought in this bill in pursuance of an engagement which they had made; but if that were the case the House had never been a party to an engagement which ought not to have been made at all, or in any case it ought to have been introduced earlier in the session.

Mr. GLADSTONE defended the measure as a complementary portion of the Irish Church Bill.

Dr. Ball, Mr. Gregory, and Mr. Maguire supported the measure, and Mr. M'Laren opposed it.

Mr. WINTERBOTHAM agreed with the hon. member for Sunderland on the general ground of principle, but felt bound to vote for it as a part of the scheme of the Irish Church Bill of last session.

Mr. MIALI complained that so long an interval had been allowed to elapse between the passing of the Irish Church Bill and the introduction of the measure, and although he allowed that the Government were bound in honour to bring forward this bill, he thought it would be difficult for members to satisfy their consciences, or their constituents—(a laugh)—that the two measures really formed part of one and the same adjustment, and therefore he should feel bound to vote with the hon. member for Sunderland. This undoubtedly was something like the establishment of relations between the State and the different religious communities—and if he believed the measure represented a settled policy of the Government, or was intended to be a perpetuity, instead of being merely the flag end of a measure already passed, he should take much more decided steps in opposition than the mere recording of his vote against the measure. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BAINES denied that in the Government proposals there was anything in the nature of endowment. There was no gift whatever, and nothing which involved the idea of patronage on the part of the State, or of subjection on the side of the religious body receiving the accommodation. Any advantage that the bill conferred was accompanied with the liability to repayment.

Mr. HADFIELD, in a speech of great warmth and earnestness, protested against the bill as another step in the direction of State endowment.

Mr. GILPIN also regarded the bill as the first step towards concurrent endowment, and urged the distinction between this and the Irish Church Bill, that that dealt with ecclesiastical funds and this with the Consolidated Fund. "Money for Ireland!" seemed to be the only cry which would unite Irish members on both sides of the House.

The House divided, and the numbers were:—

For the second reading 161

Against 58

Majority 103

The bill was then read a second time.

Mr. STEVENSON's motion "that it is inexpedient that the revised statutes for the constitution of the new governing bodies of Harrow and Winchester

schools should require that any person, in order to be elected or nominated a member of the governing bodies, must be a member of the Church of England," was rejected by a majority of eighteen. Considerable cheering and counter-cheering followed the announcement of the numbers, the majority against Mr. Stevenson's motion having been composed of the Opposition chiefly, while the minority consisted mainly of those sitting below the gangway on the Ministerial side.

CENSUS BILL.

At the evening sitting the Census Bill passed through committee. Dr. BAILL's proposal to require a census of religious opinion was negatived by the narrow majority of thirteen. Sir JOHN LUSK's proposition to insert the words of "persons married to cousins," intended to ascertain the number of consanguineous marriages, and the result on the health of their offspring, although adopted by the Government was defeated by a majority of forty-seven. Other amendments were negatived, and the bill was passed.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

The adjourned debate on this bill was resumed on the question that the House should go into committee.

The House divided, the numbers were—

Ayes	22
Noes	15
Majority	—7

The House went into committee, and a motion was made that the Chairman should leave the chair. The House divided, and it appearing that there were not forty members present,

The House adjourned at a quarter to three o'clock.

THE WAR.

PARIS, July 26.

An official despatch from General Lebouf announces that General Berins had beaten a reconnoitring force of the enemy before Niederbronn (Bas Rhin). One Bavarian officer was killed, and two were taken prisoners.

The Paris papers state that an English officer was among the Bavarian prisoners captured near Niederbronn. It is believed that he was not present as a combatant, but merely as a looker-on.

Evening.

According to information from an official source, the project of a Treaty between France and Prussia, published by the *Times*, is a summary of *pourparlers* after the Treaty of Prague between Count Bismark and M. Benedetti. It is, moreover, officially declared that the Emperor never approved this project.

The *North German Gazette* of this evening says:—"We learn that explanations will immediately be made on the part of Prussia with regard to the draught of a treaty published by the *Times*, and showing the offers made by France to Prussia."

THE FRENCH BALTIC FLEET.

The *Times* of this morning reports that going up the Channel the fleet passed several German merchantmen, which hoisted the North German Confederation flag. Their capture could have been easily effected, but the French Admiral took no other notice of them than to remark that he supposed the poor fellows had not been warned of the declaration of war.

The French Admiral said on the pilot leaving the flagship, that he should like to send his compliments to Admiral Sir Sydney Dacres, the senior Naval Lord of the Admiralty, with whom he was acquainted when he served as Flag-Captain to Admiral Hamelin in the Black Sea during the Crimean war.

It is reported that before this day week no less than thirty French men-of-war will have passed Dover, on their way to the north, Dunkirk being the rendezvous of a squadron of men-of-war and troopships.

OFFICIAL PAPERS RELATING TO FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

These papers have at length been produced in the shape of a blue-book of seventy-seven pages, containing no less than 124 despatches. The leading points are as follows:—Lord Granville received on the 5th of July a telegram from Mr. Layard stating that the Spanish Government had on the previous night decided to propose the Prince of Hohenzollern as a candidate for the throne. Lord Lyons also communicated the same intelligence to the Foreign Secretary, adding that the Duc de Gramont informed him that, so far from France resigning herself to the spectacle of a Prussian Prince on the throne of Spain, she "would not permit it, and would use her whole strength to prevent it."

The following despatch was then forwarded to Lord A. Loftus at Berlin:—

EARL GRANVILLE TO LORD A. LOFTUS.

Foreign Office, July 6, 1870.

My Lord,—Mr. Gladstone and I were taken by surprise yesterday evening by the news that the Government of Spain had offered the Crown of Spain to Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern; it appears also that the offer has been accepted by the Prince. Her Majesty's Government have no wish to interfere in any way in the internal affairs of Spain; still less have they the pretension of dictating in such a matter to North Germany; but they certainly hope, and they cannot but believe, that this project, of which they have been hitherto ignorant, has not received any sanction from the King. Some of the greatest calamities to the world have been produced by small causes, and by mistakes trivial in their origin. In the present state of opinion in France the possession of the Crown of Spain by a Prussian Prince would be sure to lead to great and dangerous irritation. Of this, indeed, we have conclusive evidence in the report just received of what has been stated by the Minister to the French Chamber. In Prussia it can be an object of no importance that a member of the House of Hohenzollern should be on the throne of the most Catholic country in Europe. It is not clear that he would receive the allegiance of the Spanish people, divided as they are into parties, many of which would be necessarily opposed to Prince Leopold, and would possibly unite against him. Success could add but little to the dignity of the Royal family of Prussia or to the power of North Germany, while the want of it could not fail to be a painful incident. It is not, however, so much as to the bearing which this question has upon North Germany, of which the King and his advisers are the best judges, that I wish to lay stress, as upon the result it may have on the future welfare of Spain—an object which Prussia must have as much at heart as Her Majesty's Government. It is in the interest of civilization, and of European peace and order, that Spain should consolidate her institutions. It is almost impossible that this should be accomplished if a new monarchy be inaugurated which is certain to excite jealousy and unfriendly feelings, if not hostile acts, on the part of her immediate and powerful neighbour. Such feelings in France would be too likely to find an echo among some of those parties to whose existence in Spain I have already alluded. I venture, therefore, to hope that the King and his advisers will find it consistent with their own views of what is best for Spain, effectually to discourage a project fraught with risk to the best interests of that country. You will not fail to point out that if these sentiments be just, the King of Prussia, whose reign has brought about so signal an improvement of that country, has now an opportunity not less signal of exercising a wise and disinterested magnanimity, with the certain effect of conferring an incalculable service on Europe by the maintenance of its peace. You will be careful to say nothing which could give ground for the supposition that Her Majesty's Government contravert, or even discuss, the abstract right of Spain in the choice of her own sovereign. For your own information I may add that we have not in any measure admitted that the assumption of the Spanish throne by Prince Leopold would justify the immediate resort to arms threatened by France. On this topic, however, you are not to enter at present in communicating with the Prussian Government. The ground-work of the representations which you are instructed to make, and of those which, with a similar aim, Her Majesty's Government have addressed to the Government of Spain, is prudential. To considerations, however, of that class I cannot but add the reflection that the strict secrecy with which these proceedings have been conducted as between the Spanish Ministry and the Prince who has been the object of their choice, seems inconsistent, on the part of Spain, with the spirit of friendship, or the rules of comity between nations, and has given, what Her Majesty's Government cannot but admit to be, so far as it goes, just cause of offence, which, it may perhaps be contended, it may be impossible to remove so long as the candidature of the Prince continues.—I am, &c.,

GRANVILLE.

At the same time Lord Granville had a conversation with the Prussian Ambassador in London, and communicated the result of his interview to Lord Lyons at Paris. In the course of this despatch he says:—

His Excellency said that the North German Government did not wish to interfere with the matter, but left it to the French to take what course they liked; and the Prussian representative at Paris had been directed to abstain from taking any part in it.

The North German Government had no desire for a war of succession, but if France chooses to make war on them on account of the choice of a king made by Spain, such a proceeding on her part would be an evidence of a disposition to quarrel without any lawful cause. It was premature, however, to discuss the question as long as the Cortes has not decided on accepting Prince Leopold as King of Spain; still, if France chooses to attack North Germany that country will defend itself.

Count Bernstorff went on to say that the language which he had stated to me as held by the North German Government was also held by the King of Prussia. His Majesty, he added, was a stranger to the negotiations with Prince Leopold, but he will not forbid the Prince to accept the Crown of Spain.

Count Bernstorff dwelt much on the violent language of France.

At this time Lord Lyons wrote to Lord Granville reporting that—"A voluntary renunciation on the part of the Prince, would, M. de Gramont thought, be a most fortunate solution of difficult and intricate questions; and he begged Her Majesty's Government to use all their influence to bring it about."

In a subsequent despatch Lord Lyons says:—

The French Government would, M. de Gramont went on to say, defer for a short time longer (for twenty-four hours, for instance) those great ostensible preparations for war (such as calling out the reserves) which would inflame public feeling in France. All essential preparations must, however, be carried out unremittently. The French Ministers would be unwise if they ran any risk of allowing Prussia to gain time by dilatory pretences.

Finally, M. de Gramont told me that I might report to your lordship that if the Prince of Hohenzollern should now, on the advice of the King of Prussia, withdraw his acceptance of the Crown, the whole affair would be at an end.

M. de Gramont did not, however, conceal from me that if, on the other hand, the Prince, after his conference with the King, persisted in coming forward as a candidate for the Throne of Spain, France would forthwith declare war against Prussia.

On the 15th instant Lord Granville received a despatch from Lord A. Loftus, in which he said—

I had an interview with Count Bismark to-day, and congratulated His Excellency on the apparent solution of the impending crisis by the spontaneous renunciation of the Prince of Hohenzollern.

His Excellency appeared somewhat doubtful as to whether this solution would prove a settlement of the difference with France. He told me that the extreme moderation evinced by the King of Prussia under the menacing tone of the French Government, and the courteous reception by His Majesty of Count Benedetti at Ems, after the severe language held to Prussia, both officially and in the French press, was producing throughout Prussia general indignation.

He had that morning, he said, received telegrams from Bremen, Königsberg, and other places, expressing strong disapprobation of the conciliatory course pursued by the King of Prussia at Ems, and requiring that the honour of the country should not be sacrificed.

Count Bismark then expressed a wish that Her Majesty's Government should take some opportunity, possibly by a declaration in Parliament, of expressing their satisfaction at the solution of the Spanish difficulty by the spontaneous act of Prince Leopold, and of bearing public testimony to the calm and wise moderation of the King of Prussia, his Government, and of the public press.

His Excellency adverted to the declaration made by the Duc de Gramont to the Corps Législatif, "that the Powers of Europe had recognised the just grounds of France in the demand addressed to the Prussian Government," and he was, therefore, anxious that some public testimony should be given that the Powers who had used their "best offices" to urge on the Prussian Government a renunciation by Prince Leopold, should likewise express their appreciation of the peaceful and conciliatory disposition manifested by the King of Prussia.

Count Bismark then observed that intelligence had been received from Paris (though not officially from Baron Werther) that the solution of the Spanish difficulty would not suffice to content the French Government, and that other claims would be advanced. If such be the case, said His Excellency, it was evident that the question of the succession to the Spanish Throne was but a mere pretext, and that the real object of France was to seek a revenge for Königsgrätz.

To which Lord Granville replied on the same day suggesting mediation.

Her Majesty's Government suggest to France and to Prussia, in identical terms, that before proceeding to extremities they should have recourse to the good offices of some friendly Power or Powers acceptable to both; and Her Majesty's Government, your Excellency will say, are ready to take any part which may be desired in the matter.

Lord Lyons had made every effort with the Duc de Gramont, and on the previous day Earl Granville had telegraphed to the British Ambassador at Paris in these terms:—"Although we are of opinion that France, having obtained the substance, should not in any case resort to extreme measures on the question of form, we have made urgent representations to Prussia in the hope of obtaining a peaceful solution. We think that if France waived her demand for a guarantee for the future, the King of Prussia might communicate to her his consent to the withdrawal of the acceptance of Prince Leopold. We are disposed to advocate an arrangement on this basis." The Duc de Gramont, however, while appreciating the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, declared that they had been rendered of no avail by the conduct of Prussia. At Berlin also the excited state of public feeling prevented all attempts at reconciliation.

The concluding despatches relate chiefly to the rights of neutrals. The final close of the negotiations, says the *Times*, "was the despatch, on the 17th, of a declaration of war to Berlin, and the decisive rejection of any further mediation by Prussia as well as France. This was signified on the 18th and 19th respectively, and in terms of which our readers are already aware. The Duc de Gramont courteously acknowledged the good offices of our Government in a note to the French Ambassador in London, and trusts that 'public opinion in England will recognise that under existing circumstances the Emperor's Government has no longer the choice in its decisions.' We may note that there is no mention in these papers, on one side or the other, of the garden insult by the King of Prussia, or of the autograph letter of apology said to have been required from him as a condition of peace.

"We believe that 'public opinion in England,' which the Duc de Gramont appeals to, will, whatever answer it may return to him, allow that Her Majesty's Cabinet and Foreign Ministers have in this short space of twenty anxious days done all that a Government could do to avert war. Whatever blood may flow, the hands of England are clean."

A violent thunderstorm passed over London yesterday at an early hour. About twenty minutes before nine o'clock, when the storm was very heavy over Southwark, a flash of lightning struck the copper vane surmounting the south-east pinnacle of St. Saviour's Church, and travelling downwards carried away the pinnacle itself—a stone structure about twenty feet high, rending asunder the massive stone turret from which the pinnacle springs. The tower of St. Saviour's overlooks the Borough Market, and when the catastrophe occurred business was in full operation. Persons who were on the spot describe the shock to have been most terrific. Mr. John Bryant, salesman in the market, and another person employed there, were both stricken to the ground and considerably shaken, though not seriously hurt.

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stances will be fully explained by Messrs. Theobald Brothers,
Public Accountants, 14, Cornhill, or the Publisher of this
paper, who will also receive donations from the kind-hearted.

MRS. BAYNES and her Sisters, the Misses
BEARD, have REMOVED from Denmark-hill to a larger
house at HAMPTHEAD, where their PUPILS will REAS-
SEMBLE early in SEPTEMBER. Prospectuses will be for-
warded on application to Mrs. Baynes, Mount View, Green-
hill, Hampstead, N.W.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1870.

SUMMARY.

THERE has been another week of dread suspense,
but without the least hope that the storm cloud
will pass over Europe unless the illness of the
Emperor should assume a serious form. War
has been formally declared, and despairing pro-
posals of mediation dashed aside. The hosts
are still mustering towards the Rhine frontier,
half a million armed men at least, the French
legions along the boundary line from Luxem-
burgh to Basle with Metz as a centre, and
Nancy the headquarters; the Prussian regi-
ments gathering in Rhenish Prussia, massing
around the Rhine fortresses, or blocking up the
vulnerable districts of Bavaria and Baden, and
waiting the signal from Frankfurt-on-the-Main,
where King William's Staff is quartered. At
present, all is mere conjecture as to where, or
by whom, the first blow will be struck. A game
at strategy on a gigantic scale may be played
prior to the onset. The Prussians needed three
weeks to organise behind their lines; they have
already secured a fortnight. A French assault
on Kiel, and a landing of troops on the Baltic
coast nearest Berlin, may precede, or coincide
with, the rush across the Rhine frontier; or the
German armies in one compact mass may leave
their capital for awhile to its fate, and sternly
advance on Paris. Though neither side can
absolutely fix the day, the Prussians would fain
fight their first battle on the 3rd of August, a
memorable anniversary in their annals.

Though newspaper correspondents are far
away in the rear in Germany, and are abso-
lutely excluded from the French camps, there
are indubitable signs that a state of war exists.
The Kehl end of the great international bridge
across the Rhine at Strasburg, and a viaduct
near Hagenau, have been blown up, both for the
purpose of retarding the French advance into

Baden and Rhenish Prussia, while the first
blood has been shed in a skirmish near Forbach,
ten French soldiers falling victims to the
Prussian needle-gun. A French fleet of eight
ironclads, reviewed by the Empress at Cher-
bourg on Sunday, passed Dover next day for
the coast of the enemy; ships of war cruise
about the North Sea on the look-out for Ger-
man merchantmen; and the ports of Hamburg,
Bremen, and perhaps Kiel, have been blocked
up by stone-laden hulks.

The interval between the declaration of war
and the commencement of hostilities has been
employed for the issue of State papers by the
belligerents, with the view of vindicating the
justice of their respective positions before the
bar of public opinion. All of them combined
fail to clear up the mystery as to the imme-
diate origin of the rupture. The Duc de
Gramont's elaborate circular puts the best
face on the French cause. But its whole force
is contained in reports of certain alleged con-
versations relative to Prince Leopold of Hohen-
zollern between M. Benedetti and Count Bis-
marck and Baron Thile, which the Prussian
diplomats flatly deny to have taken place.
In replying to an address from the Legislative
Body, the Emperor declares that he has done
all in his power to keep out of war, and the
nation "by its irresistible impulse had dictated
its decision." "The Imperial Proclamation to
the French nation" alleges that Prussia has
abused the "enduring forbearance" of France,
"turned Europe into a camp," and followed
up the protests of the French Government
against her "new pretensions" with "con-
temptuous acts." The Emperor professes to
wish "that the peoples who compose the great
German nationality may freely dispose of their
destinies," but demands the establishment of
a state of affairs "which shall guarantee our
security and assure our future." The mani-
festo is skilfully framed to evoke French en-
thusiasm and flatter French pride.

When Napoleon III., with his facility for
framing sonorous sentences, declares that "a
great people which defends a just cause is in-
vincible," European opinion will inevitably read
it by the light of the "project of a treaty"
with Prussia, which the *Times* brought to light
on Monday. This document has created hardly
less sensation than the outbreak of war itself.
In substance it is a proposal for an offensive and
defensive alliance with Prussia, having for one
of its principal conditions that the Court of
Berlin should support Napoleon III. in the
conquest of Belgium. The statements made
in both Houses of Parliament yesterday fail
to clear up the mystery of the affair, while
they leave but little ground to hope that
the document is wholly unauthentic. It
is curious to note that while the Prussian
Government—for the document, if not a
forgery, must have come from them—accuse
France of wishing to annex Belgium, the
Emperor has just declared in conversing with
"An Englishman," that he also was tempted by
Count Bismarck to state what equivalent he
would expect if Prussia should seize Holland.

The diplomatic papers relative to the Franco-
Prussian quarrel promised by our Government,
though so long delayed as to have excited Mr.
Disraeli's impatience, are now ready for publi-
cation. The *Telegraph* gives in these few words
the essence of these despatches:—"When
the altercation first broke out," it says, "the
Government lost no time in representing to
Prussia the expediency of using every influence
for the withdrawal of a candidate whose nomi-
nation had seriously endangered the security of
the whole Continent. Prince Leopold of Hohen-
zollern retired, and our Government then in-
formed the French Minister in plain and unmis-
takable language, that in their opinion all
reasonable cause for complaint had ceased.
Mutual irritation, however, was excited by
events which have already been too widely
discussed; and our Government, seeing
danger imminent, then offered, in ac-
cordance with the customary diplomatic tradi-
tions, their best endeavours to avert a cata-
strophe. Her Majesty's Ministers proposed
mediation, offered their own services as peace-
makers, and volunteered, moreover, to act in
concert with any other Power that might be named
by either of the disputants. We redoubled our
efforts as the danger increased, and our Amba-
sador in Paris, Lord Lyons, by the strenuous-
ness of his exertions, succeeded in retarding, by
one day at least, the actual declaration of war.
Even after the declaration had been made, we
addressed an identical note to both the hostile
Governments; but by both our intervention
was independently and simultaneously de-
clined." In the House of Lords to-morrow
night, Earl Granville will himself make a state-
ment on the subject. It will also be seen that
various military and naval preparations, not,
however, on a large scale, are being made by

the Government, with a view to eventualities.

We have small space to refer to the Parlia-
mentary events of the week, foremost among
which is the third reading of the Elementary
Education Bill on Friday night. Vigorous
protests against the favour shown to the Church
of England, and the injustice done to Noncon-
formists, were made by Mr. Dixon and Mr.
Miall, who were replied to by Mr. Gladstone in
an angry and severe speech. The Bill was read
a second time in the Lords on Monday, and in
Committee the Duke of Richmond will move the
rejection of the ballot scheme and other amend-
ments. The differences between the two Houses
on the Irish Land Bill have been substantially
settled. Several more Government measures,
including the law reform schemes, have been
withdrawn, though Mr. Gladstone still clings to
the hope that the University Tests Bill may
pass this Session.

THIRD READING OF THE EDUCATION BILL.

THE Elementary Education Bill has at length
passed the House of Commons and is now under
consideration in the House of Lords. The last
stage of the measure in the Representative House
was characterised by an incidental passage at
arms to which it might be regarded by our
readers as affectation if we did not refer. The
reproaches of the junior Member for Bradford
against the Bill, and especially against the
course which the Government have thought fit
to pursue with regard to it, and the high tone
of indignation which pervaded, and gave unusual
heat to, Mr. Gladstone's reply, require a word
or two of modifying comment in order to be
correctly appreciated.

The circumstance has been generally over-
looked by the Press, as it seems to have been
by Mr. Gladstone, that the spirit of those criti-
cisms which were so freely applied to the con-
duct of the Government in reference to this
measure, was a not unnatural response to the
galling superciliousness of the preceding speaker,
the Right Hon. Cowper-Temple. The terms
in which he rejoiced in the triumph of the
Union over the League, and the air of assumed
superiority with which he read a lesson
to the defeated, did not tend, assuredly, to soothe
the somewhat excited emotions with which
many members of the advanced section of Re-
formers in the House of Commons contemplated
the passing of the Bill. It may be said, and
truly, that Her Majesty's Ministers could not be
held responsible for the indiscreet chuckle of
this eminent Whig over the Radicals who sit
below the gangway. Still, it must be borne in
mind, that the flag of victory which he flaunted
in their faces, had been put into his hand by
the Government, and that, therefore, it is not
by any means surprising that the irritation he
was the means of stimulating should instantly
glance from him to the Government itself.

Calmly, and without the least desire to renew
those expressions of discontent which Mr. Glad-
stone so severely rebuked on Friday afternoon,
we adhere to the position which we have all
along maintained with respect to this particular
portion of the Ministerial programme, and
which was assumed by the Member for Brad-
ford throughout his speech, that the educa-
tional policy of the present Government has
been one which a large section of their sup-
porters were justified in regarding with surprise
and disapprobation. It is not true that they
had taken a narrow and sectarian view of the
education question. It is hardly correct to
assume, as Mr. Gladstone did, that the
compromise effected by the Bill is one
that looks to broad national interests in
preference to the wishes of this or that wing
of the Liberal army. On the contrary, the Non-
conformists had, for the most part, indulged in
no sectarian expectations in regard to the edu-
cational measure supposed to be sure to repre-
sent the Reformed Parliament. They desired
to disclaim, for themselves at least, the narrow
basis of denominationalism. It was the Govern-
ment itself that put the question too exclusively
upon this anti-national footing. The general
drift, therefore, of the condemnation which has
been visited upon the Government by leading
representative Dissenters—quite apart of course
from the manner in which such dissatisfaction
might be expressed—ought not to have excited
Mr. Gladstone's surprise, far less the passionate
indignation which he was betrayed into display-
ing on the occasion.

It may be well, however, for the Chief of the
Administration to bear in mind that freedom of
speech is sometimes the best safety-valve for
disappointments that might have been avoided
but are found to be irreparable. It cannot be
said that the most advanced section of his sup-
porters has been the least proud of his general-
ship, or the most disposed to hold back from
the yoke he has imposed upon it. On the

whole, the members of it have, perhaps, been less outspoken than they should have been. It is a disagreeable duty, no doubt, even when it is forced upon one by the necessity of the case, to stand up against trusted friends in order to save deserted principles. But it is a duty which must sometimes fall to the lot of those who would fain have shunned it; and, in this case, we are convinced that it was better even for the Government itself that the duty should be thoroughly discharged than that it should have been left undone. It is the thunderstorm which clears the air. It is after sharp collision that solid understandings are usually arrived at. It is better for the Premier, and it is better for the Dissenting communities, that the real foundation upon which the relations between them ultimately rests, should be ascertained by trial. There is nothing more dangerous for a party than the suppressed dissatisfaction of any active section of it. If the Session had closed without the Government being publicly made aware that it had grievously disappointed and wounded one considerable band of its supporters, the discontent engendered by this Education Bill would have festered during the recess, and in an inflamed state of political feeling errors of policy that, under other circumstances, might have been overlooked as trivial, would be likely enough to occasion troublesome and incurable sores.

We earnestly hope, however, that the unpremeditated duel of Friday last will not be magnified into an importance which it does not deserve. It does not indicate—at least we hope not—any serious withdrawal of confidence either on one side or on the other. Mr. Gladstone received the attack as if it had been intended in a personal sense, which it certainly was not, and took greater advantage than we think he would have done in cooler moments, of omissions of qualifying terms which are not always duly inserted in the heat of debate, in order to point out the unreasonableness of the demands made upon him. Possibly, the things said on both sides were stronger than either side would insist upon justifying. There will be no split, all the less tendency to split after this interchange of high words than before it. Mr. Gladstone will not lose the grateful respect of those who did so much to place him in power; nor will the Nonconformist members who have reminded him that they represent claims as well as concessions, forfeit the respect which the leader of the House of Commons always in the long run pays to honesty and outspokenness of utterance, when they are not used as a shield to cover malignity of temper or treachery of purpose. It was a "lover's quarrel," and no more need be said about it.

THE MYSTERIOUS TREATY DRAFT.

ON Monday morning the public was startled into a sensation which it would be difficult to analyse by the appearance, in the columns of the *Times*, of the draft of a treaty between France and Prussia, for the hushing up of their differences one with another, and for the plunder of Europe. It was published in the French language; it has all the appearance of being an authentic document; and it has not been pretended that it is a forgery. From whom came the copy of it which has been transferred to the broadsheet of the leading journal has not been explained. It can hardly have come from France. It is difficult to imagine that it can have come, with connivance, from the Government of Prussia. One cannot see why, unless there is some *arrière pensée* behind the communication of it to the British public, it should have been given by any conspicuous member of either the French or the Prussian Government to a newspaper, and not to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. There it is, however, let it have come there through whom it might. Nobody stands before the world as responsible for it. Our own Ministers never saw it before Monday last, and then only in the shape of an article of newspaper information. In short, nobody doubts that it is a genuine draft; nobody knows for certainty the diplomatic history of it; and nobody who reads it can be otherwise than struck with the cynical audacity with which its Articles have been drawn.

The proposed instrument is to the following effect. By the First Article the Emperor of the French admits and recognises the acquisitions made by Prussia in her late war with Austria. In the Second Article, Prussia, in return, pledges herself to facilitate the acquisition of Luxembourg by France, and will use her influence with the King of the Netherlands to part with his sovereign rights over that Duchy for a compensation, France engaging to bear all the pecuniary charges which the transaction may cost. Article the Third contains an engagement

on the part of the Emperor that he will not oppose a federal union of the Confederation of the North with the Southern States of Germany—Austria excepted—based on a common Parliament, but showing due respect to the sovereignty of such States. The Fourth Article, perhaps, we had better give as it stands, substituting only the English for the French words—"On his part, His Majesty the King of Prussia, in case His Majesty the Emperor of the French should be obliged by circumstances to cause his troops to enter Belgium or to conquer her, will accord the succour of his arms to France, and will sustain her with all his forces of land and sea against every Power which, in that eventuality, shall declare war upon her." Then follows the concluding Article contracting "an alliance offensive and defensive."

As to the moral character of the stipulations here committed to paper, but never signed, we need not waste words in attempting to define it. Had the instrument been perfected, and had the arrangements to which it refers been carried into effect, it would have constituted—with the exception, perhaps, of the seizure and appropriation of Schleswig by Prussia—the most unmitigated bit of filibustering of which the annals of the present century contain any record. If the proposal was made by France to Prussia, it certainly illustrates in vivid hues the dangers to which a free State is exposed when it closely allies itself with a great military monarchy. Of what use are the somewhat ostentatious professions of friendship which the Emperor of the French has made to England more than once, if he is ready at any moment to cast her overboard, and to take possession with the strong hand of that which he, as well as she, is under engagement to guard? On the other hand, if the inception of this iniquitous agreement can be traced to Prussia, what are we to think of the solemn utterances of her King and people? It is to be observed that the draft, as it stands, contains some internal indications of French workmanship. It assigns nothing to Prussia but what she had already carved out for herself by her own sword, or what even the Emperor could not, if determined upon, have prevented. It offers Prussia a sort of theoretical and ideal supremacy in Germany, and it gives to France a couple of very "material guarantees," by way of compensation—namely, Luxembourg and Belgium, the one to be purchased, the other to be seized, or, as the draft treaty says, "conquered." If diplomacy were always as straightforward and outspoken as it is commonly crooked and reserved, we should unhesitatingly interpret this fact unfavourably to the professions of French amity to this country.

Nevertheless, news comes from Paris that the treaty had its origin in the suggestions of Count Bismarck, and that M. Benedetti merely put them into diplomatic form. We are prepared to set down a fair amount of audacious brigandage to the German statesman, but we shall require very strong evidence to persuade us that the treaty is really and truly a verbal embodiment of the transactions he suggested. The French account of the affair may be grounded in fact. It may be that Bismarck proposed to France, as a sort of set-off to the aggrandisement of Prussia, the acquisition by purchase of the province of Luxembourg. But did M. Benedetti or his master throw in Belgium as part of the unscrupulous arrangement, and was this the Frenchman's contribution to the scheme? That the draft was ultimately refused by Prussia seems to be admitted. Why was it refused? On account of its substance, or on account of its incidents? At the hour of our present writing Prussia's explanation has not reached us, and therefore we feel bound to suspend our judgment. But the whole affair, wrapped, as for some time it has been, in mystery, has a very ugly look about it, now that by some unknown hand it has been dragged to light.

Meanwhile, we entreat our fellow-countrymen to get to the bottom of this scandalous diplomatic conspiracy, if it be possible, without giving way to unnecessary ebullitions of temper. Above all, we trust that there will be no serious debate upon the war or its causes before the rising of Parliament. The Session is close to an end. The strength of the Commons is exhausted. The loquacity of some members will be dangerous. The professionals of the Army and Navy will urge to the uttermost upon Government a course of intervention which would lead very quickly to war. England may well be shocked at the profligacy displayed by military monarchies—but, until she is distinctly called to it in defence of her hearths and homes, we pray that she may not be wheedled by silly pretexts, or overborne by high-sounding appeals to national obligations, to consent once more to renounce her battle with ignorance, intemperance, dirt, crime, and misery, in order

that she may enter upon a fearful struggle with men, "made in the image of God."

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WAR.

IN the terrible death struggle about to commence, nothing is more remarkable than the ease with which martial enthusiasm has been excited on either side. That the war is to a great extent popular both in France and Germany does not admit of a doubt. In each case, though under different circumstances, it is a national uprising. The Emperor, indeed, seeks to evade his own responsibility in inflicting an awful calamity upon Europe by declaring that "it is the whole nation which has, by its irresistible impulse, dictated our decisions"—a statement which, if untrue as respects the origin of the war, derives some force from the way in which the French people have responded to his warlike appeals. It cannot be denied that there is a very large peace party in France, composed not only of those who detest war on principle, but of influential classes, whose material interests are affected by such convulsions, and of the entire peasantry, who regard with horror the conscription which tears them from home and breaks up their families. The voices of these great sections of the community has been absolutely drowned in the warlike din, so that Napoleon III. can say with some truth that behind him "France has risen to her feet." The warlike ardour of Germany is more easily explained. The entire population has risen for the defence of the Fatherland, menaced with invasion by its hereditary foe. There is no peace party in Germany, because the national peril is too imminent. In the one case it is war for an idea; in the other for home. But in neither France nor Germany would this mad frenzy have involved such dire results but for the great armaments maintained on either side. We now, alas! have only too vivid a demonstration of the truth that an armed peace is simply the prologue to sanguinary war, which may be precipitated by the intrigues of a few, or a trifling incident, against the sentiments, wishes, and interests of the vast majority.

It may be that only by means of so tremendous a conflict can the world be cured of its military madness, and Europe restored to permanent peace. That either belligerent will gain anything by this war beyond the privilege of living for the future unmolested, is highly improbable. German unity may be completed by the incorporation of the Southern States into the Confederation, though that will be regarded as no gain by Bavaria and its neighbours. France can only secure the left bank of the Rhine by a prolonged struggle for which she is not prepared. The Emperor's readiest means of indemnifying himself would be the seizure of Belgium, but the fear of arousing England and the other protecting Powers are an effectual restraint on his rapacity. We cannot foresee results, nor predict that no territorial changes will follow this gigantic war. But that a conflict in which perhaps a million of combatants will be engaged, thousands of lives lost, ruin and misery spread over half the continent, and whole tracts of country devastated by fire and sword, should in the end produce no tangible effect except woe and desolation, would give such a shock to the moral sense of mankind as might provide a permanent cure for warlike delirium, and lead to the hearty acceptance of arbitration as a substitute for an appeal to the sword.

This is the only hope we can indulge—and it may be altogether illusory—in contemplating this horrible strife of the two great nations of Europe. The whole world is in a fair way of being utterly sickened of war. Now that science, more than personal courage, determines the issue—when we find the murderous Chassepot and the deadly Mitrailleuse are simply instruments of wholesale slaughter—is it not possible that the destined victims of ambitious sovereigns and statesmen, however disciplined, will at length refuse to encounter the fiery ordeal? and that humanity will raise a cry of horror at the diabolical and senseless struggle? The "gallantry" and martial ardour of the French people could not stand many such battles as are impending. And it is here that the great lesson must first be learnt. Prussia may, looking back some years, be only in a less degree guilty than France. But once put down the war spirit and warlike armaments in France, and the peace of Europe will be secure. The Empire is war, and stands self-condemned. The Second Empire is following in the footsteps of the First; Napoleon III. is hardly less hostile to the repose of Europe than Napoleon I. For our part, we do not believe that the wholesome change in French bias and opinions, which has been growing for many years, has been wholly swept away by this warlike tornado. It will very soon rise again to the surface, and then woe betide the dynasty which has proved itself to be as incompatible

with the peace of Europe as inimical to the freedom of the French people.

THE WAR AND ENGLISH MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

THE appalling suddenness with which the thunder-clouds of war have burst upon us, darkening the once peaceful horizon and awakening the smouldering fires of national bitterness and hatred, has hitherto prevented many of us from fully comprehending the terribly disastrous results which must inevitably ensue to our leading industrial interests, from a prolongation of the wicked and murderous conflict between France and Prussia, even should this country be so fortunate as to avoid being dragged into the quarrel. Already we are being told that the outbreak of hostilities on the continent is rather a good thing for us. The Lancashire cotton mills, Birmingham hardware manufactures, Thames shipbuilding yards, and other industrial establishments, will, it is coolly asserted, find themselves acquiring a large accession of business, unfettered by the restrictions of continental competition! Even the *Economist* seems to think that we shall not be great losers by the war. It tells us that all the most dangerous competitors of English manufactures are compelled to diminish, if not suspend, their productive operations. Numbers of the skilled foreign workmen, and even some of the foreign manufacturers, have been drawn off to the army. The great continental towns themselves may become the scenes of destructive warfare, and thus all commercial security is lost. Again, the war has—we are told—broken up the mischievous speculations in raw cotton, which enabled the Liverpool brokers to exercise a most pernicious influence on the cotton-manufacturing industry of the north, by forcing up to a most unnatural price the supplies of raw material. Then there is the great traffic to be carried on in implements of warfare, which both belligerents will wish to buy here; to say nothing of the immense carrying trade which will fall into our hands. During the continuance of hostilities, English vessels will be enabled to keep the sea, while those of France and Germany will become the helpless prey of merciless cruisers; moreover this country—"the great seat of peace," is certain to prove the storehouse of all commodities, the place for transacting intermediate continental dealings. Hence the *Economist* argues favourably of our industrial prospects during the war.

To read such assertions, however pleasantly put, one would think that there had never been a writer of the name of Bastiat, or that if he had penned certain instructive works relating to the principles of political economy, they had not found their way to the bookshelves of newspaper editors. In his treatise, "What is Seen and What is not Seen," he showed that although a broken window might possibly benefit the glazier, yet it would be at the expense of some one else; for the money employed in paying for the new pane of glass might otherwise have been expended in a different and more useful manner. Some English trades will gain to a certainty by the war, but there will be others which will lose to a far greater extent. However, the *Economist*, like many of our countrymen, forgetting the possibility of an official proclamation of neutrality, sadly overrates the possible traffic in implements of warfare. If any suppose that the legislative mistakes which permitted an unpatriotic Liverpool shipbuilder to involve us in serious disputes with the United States, will again be tolerated, they will find themselves very much mistaken. We are this time to have a real, and not a sham neutrality. There will be no more Albatrosses leaving the Mersey, either for Prussian or French use.

The bitter experience of the past has not been lost upon us, and those who look gleefully forward to making their fortunes by supplying either or both of the belligerents with arms or munitions of war, have a disappointment in store for them. Even the export of horses and coal is likely to be strictly prohibited. This precaution is indispensable if we are to maintain our neutral character. To supply with coal the steam-vessels of either hostile Power is as fully breach of neutrality as if, instead of coal, the article had been gunpowder. This fact, combined with the diminished demand from the continent, cannot fail to exert a prejudicial influence on the English colliery interest, and, by decreasing the demand, lessen the amount of employment among our coal-mining population. As with coal, so with iron. True, the rivalry of the Belgian iron-workers is not so much to be feared, seeing that large numbers of the Belgian workmen are forced to exchange the hammer for the rifle, but of what avail is the diminished competition, if the markets in which it occurred are closed against us? Surely a little trade is better than none at all.

If we glance at the prospects of our great manufacturing industries, we can perceive little real hope for believing in their continued prosperity while the continent remains exposed to the fury and desolation of war. Sooner or later, the evil effects of the strife must begin to be felt, and by none more severely than ourselves. We are less independent of our neighbours than we seem to imagine. The principles of free-trade have bound the nations in a network of mutual interest, which cannot be injured or broken in any one place without rendering loose and insecure the rest of the apparatus. The consciousness that we at any time may become embroiled with one or both of the hostile Powers cannot fail to exercise a most depressing influence on our industrial prospects. Even were it certain that we could avoid participation in the quarrel which has transformed Central Europe into a vast military camp, our industrial gains would in nowise be increased. We might find ourselves freed from continental competition, but this advantage would be more than counterbalanced by the powerful stimulus given also to American industrial production. Yet, it is not improbable that some trades may enjoy a condition of prosperity extremely artificial and unsound. We have had an instance of this in the history of the Thames shipbuilding industry. During the American Civil War the Thames shipbuilding trades were forced into a most unnatural state of activity, England having, in consequence of the Southern States recognising the principle of privateering, absorbed the greater part of the American carrying trade. The American shipbuilding industry was nearly ruined, while in England the demand for vessels almost exceeded the existing power of production. New yards were opened, workmen hired from all parts of the kingdom, and the forges kept hissing and roaring night and day. At that time the shipbuilder was regarded as almost a millionaire. Suddenly there came a change. Peace was proclaimed, and with it the whole fabric—so artificial and deceptive—of English shipbuilding prosperity reeled and toppled over. Employers became insolvent, yards were closed, and crowds of unemployed artisans wandered hopelessly through the streets. Then came the sickening revelations of want, sickness, and despair in the Isle of Dogs.

We are now threatened with a repetition of the Millwall calamity, only on a larger scale. Even as superficial observers, when told of the loss inflicted by the war upon our cotton-manufacturing industry, replied by pointing to the seeming prosperity of the shipbuilding and other trades, so others, equally shallow and inexperienced, now insist that if the conflict between France and Prussia has crippled certain branches of trade, it has certainly tended to develop others. Of course, we do not dispute this; we only point out that when the moment of reaction arrives, the amount of adversity will be commensurate with the degree of artificial prosperity actually enjoyed. And here we have the true lesson of the war. There can be no sound or enduring industrial progress and prosperity which is not based on the arts of peace. To expect that a state of war could prove beneficial to any legitimate industrial calling, would be about as reasonable as to infer that the nefarious arts of the pickpocket or the burglar tended to stimulate industrial production. In fact, were such a theory tenable, the "dangerous classes" would come to be regarded as the greatest benefactors of the artisan and operative. But, somehow or other, the natural instinct of most men leads them to regard unfavourably the least deviation from the laws of *modus vivendi*. They know that any branch of industry based upon theft and wrongdoing cannot long prosper. Retribution inevitably arrives sooner or later. And so with war. The mercenary soldier is, in nine cases out of ten, as great a foe to real industrial prosperity as is the habitual criminal. Nay, he is worse. The thief does not destroy capital, he simply misuses it. Armies destroy capital, and thus—by limiting the amount existing—tend to decrease the power of production, and consequently the means of employment. Capital begets capital, but what can destroyed capital produce? Nothing. Hence, in the long run, the working classes will be the chief sufferers. Consequently they, of all people, have the greatest right to denounce a war of which the principal burden will be thrust upon their shoulders.

MR. GLADSTONE AND MR. MIALI.

When Mr. Miall said that the Nonconformist supporters of the Government had been led through the Valley of Humiliation, and that their future conduct would be based on the old proverb, "Once bit, twice shy," he merely put into a figure and a proverb the meaning which Mr. Dixon had conveyed

in a careful allusion and a well-turned sentence. It is no reply to this feeling to say, "Withdraw your support!" Mr. Gladstone momentarily forgot that on the great question between the Government and its supporters, one hundred and thirty-two of those supporters voted against the Government, and exactly a hundred and thirty-two Conservatives voted for the Government. It is useless to deny that this fact has produced discontent. It has produced discontent in the House; it has produced far more in the country. Nor can we object to the open expression of that discontent. It is better confessed than concealed. It is better that it should come out upon the surface in a sudden quarrel, than that it should spread silently among the party as an inward weakness. The Government has had a warning. They have been going the way by which all Liberal majorities have gone to disintegration, and many Liberal Governments have gone to ruin. They may do without their Radical supporters on a few measures, or for a portion of a session, but they can no more afford to break with them than the Radicals can afford to break with the Ministry. In fact, each party knows that it can't do without the other; and notwithstanding the quarrel over the Education Bill, the dissatisfaction about the Ballot Bill, and the disappointment about the University Tests Bill and the Burials Bill, they do not intend to try. After all, this Education Bill is far too good a measure to quarrel about, and the whole Liberal party finds more in it on which it can agree than on which it must differ. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Forster are not so wide apart as they seem, and Mr. Miall is nearer to Mr. Gladstone than either of them thought during the heated term of Friday's discussion. Mr. Miall expressed the hope that the working of the measure would be very far superior to its effect in the House, and even gave utterance to the belief that the measure is "more liberal than it looks." Mr. Gladstone, in his vigorous defence of the measure, apologised for the course the Government had taken, and before he sat down changed the flag of defiance he waved at the beginning into a symbol of peace.—*Daily News*.

The great services which the Premier has rendered during the last two years are known to the country; but a statesman is never more in danger than when, presuming upon what he has done, he takes to taunting his coadjutors. Who were the inveterate antagonists of the Premier in his famous Lancashire campaign? Were they not the party that has supported him at every step of the Education Bill? And have not those who fought the battle of the Government at the hustings pronounced against that measure? These facts afford conclusive evidence that Ministers have stumbled. When were Tories ever known to assist a Liberal Government in passing Liberal measures? It is not the Ethiopian that has changed his skin, but the Government that has taken the hue of the Ethiopian. "Withdraw your support; for God's sake withdraw your support!" Mr. Gladstone jauntily ejaculates. But where would the Premier be were his advice taken? Who passed the Education Bill? Not the Liberal majority, but the Conservative opposition. On a vital point 132 Liberals voted against the Government, and but for the support of 132 Tories, Ministers would have been left in a miserable minority. Has the Premier forgotten who it was that said—You cannot fight against the future? Does he suppose time is on the side of denominationalism? The tendency of the age is to nationalise every social or political institution. Mr. Gladstone assumed that in the position he occupied he was bound to pursue the course followed with the Education Bill. If Mr. Miall looked to the sects, Government had to look to the nation. This argument is specious, but hollow. The charge against the Government is exactly what Mr. Gladstone takes credit for eschewing. Ministers have sacrificed the nation to the sects. Their offense is that they have deliberately preferred sectarian to national culture. What wonder if in such circumstances the more earnest section of the Liberal party feels outraged. Had the comprehensive statesmanship that was applied to the Irish Church and Irish Land questions been brought to bear upon education, instead of having denominationalism extended, we should have had it extinguished. Mr. Gladstone once said:—"The adoption of a moral principle, or scheme, or institution, by the State, is among the most solemn and most pregnant of human acts." The truth of the proposition is indisputable; and when the principle, or scheme, or institution adopted is pernicious, the evil done is incalculable. Mr. Forster's Elementary Education Bill should be looked at in the light of this fact. The pernicious principle on which it is based must either be abandoned or extended. Government must do in Ireland what is done in England, and to do that were practically to place the educational machinery of the sister isle under Ultramontane supervision. Is the country prepared for that catastrophe? "Once bit, twice shy."—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle*.

CHUNDER SEN.—On Wednesday night a meeting was held at the Freemasons' Tavern (Mr. William Shaen in the chair), at which it was resolved to constitute the proposed Theistic Society. The Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen addressed the meeting. He said that, while differing in doctrine, they could have religious fellowship in common. They owed a thankful recognition to Scripture writers, to Confucius, and all the prophets. They did not wish to increase religious animosity, but to promote love and peace. Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell was one of the speakers.

THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR.

(Continued from page 710.)

THE EMPEROR AND COUNT BISMARCK INTERVIEWED.

"An Englishman" reports in the *Daily Telegraph* the substance of a conversation with the Emperor Napoleon at an audience given to himself and a friend at the Tuileries on Thursday last. We will not vouch for the truth of the interview. The writer says:—

I must begin by remarking, that I have known the Emperor for many years, and have seldom seen him looking better. When last I spoke with him, five months ago, he looked careworn and haggard, with a complexion more than usually sallow and ash-coloured. Yesterday his face looked fuller, his eyes bright, his cheek healthy. I wish in addition to premise, that, after he had spoken, I inquired whether we were at liberty to repeat his words *à haute voix*. He answered, "I wish nothing better than that I should be represented to the people of England as holding these views."

The Emperor, after speaking with his usual quiet kindness upon some private matters, turned suddenly to the political situation of France and of Europe. He said, "One fortnight before the utterance of the Duc de Gramont in the Corps Législatif—which utterance has, as it seems to me, been so unjustly reflected upon by the English press—I had no notion that war was at hand, nor am I, even at this moment, by any means prepared for it. I trusted that, when the Duc de Gramont had set me straight with France by speaking manfully in public as to the Hohenzollern candidature, I should be able so to manipulate and handle the controversy as to make peace certain. But France has slipped out of my hand. I cannot rule unless I lead. This is the most national war that in my time France has undertaken, and I have no choice but to advance at the head of a public opinion which I can neither stem nor check. In addition, M. de Bismarck, although a very clever man, wants too much, and wants it too quick. After the victory of Prussia in 1866, I reminded him that but for the friendly and self-denying neutrality of France he could never have achieved such marvels. I pointed out to him that I had never moved a French soldier near to the Rhine frontier during the continuance of the German war. I quoted to him from his own letter in which he thanked me for my abstinence, and said that he had left neither a Prussian gun nor a Prussian soldier upon the Rhine, but had thrown Prussia's whole and undivided strength against Austria and her allies. I told him that, as some slight return for my friendly inactivity, I thought that he might surrender Luxembourg, and one or two other little towns which gravely menace our frontier, to France. I added that in this way he would, by a trifling sacrifice, easily forgotten by Prussia in view of her enormous successes and acquisitions, pacify the French nation, whose jealousies it was so easy to arouse, so difficult to disarm."

"M. de Bismarck replied to me, after some delay, 'Not one foot of territory, whether Prussian or neutral, can I resign. But, perhaps, if I were to make some further acquisitions, I could make some concessions. How, for instance, if I were to take Holland? What would France want as a sop for Holland?'

"I replied," said the Emperor, "that if he attempted to take Holland, it meant war with France; and there the conversation, in which M. de Bismarck and M. de Benedetti were the interlocutors, came to an end."

I have repeated this conversation as nearly as possible in the Emperor's words.

On Sunday last (says the *Observer*) Count Bismarck, in speaking to a gentleman about to proceed to England on the subject of the war, stated that he could wish the English public might understand the real objects the French Government had in view. "Either," he said, "the war is carried on with the view of annexing portions of German territory, or it is, as France now states, carried on for an idea. In the former event, France must mean to take the left bank of the Rhine, and in that case, as a glance at the map will show, the annexation of Belgium follows as a matter of necessity. In the latter case France is reviving the policy of the worst period of Louis XIV. and Napoleon I., and is simply and solely making war on Prussia because she cannot tolerate the notion that a neighbouring Power should be independent of her will and should develop her resources in peace." Such is the substance of the Prussian Premier's statement, though we do not profess to give the exact words. Whatever opinion may be entertained as to the correctness of the above view of the situation, it is well that it should be known as an authentic utterance of Count Bismarck.

THE FRENCH DECLARATION OF WAR.

The following is the text of the French declaration of war, delivered at Berlin on the 19th inst:—

The undersigned chargé d'affaires of France has the honour, in conformity with the orders he has received from his Government, to bring the following communication to the knowledge of His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of His Majesty the King of Prussia. The Government of His Majesty the Emperor of the French being unable to view the project of placing a Prussian Prince on the Spanish throne otherwise than as an action directed against the security of the territories of France, found itself obliged to demand of His Majesty the King of Prussia the assurance that such a combination could not be realised with his consent. His Majesty having refused to give any such guarantee, and having, on the contrary, declared to the ambassador of His Majesty the Emperor of the French that he intends to reserve to himself for that eventuality, as for any other, the right to be guided by circumstances, the Imperial Government has been forced to see in this declaration of the King an *arrière pensée*, menacing in like manner to France and the European equilibrium. This declaration has been rendered worse by the communication made to the different Cabinets of the King's refusal to receive the Ambassador of the Emperor, and to enter into any further explanations with him. In consequence thereof the French Government has thought it its duty to take immediate steps for the defence of its honour and its injured interests, and has resolved to adopt, for this object, all measures which the situation

in which it has been placed renders necessary. It considers itself from this moment in a state of war against Prussia.

The undersigned has the honour to be, your Excellency's, &c., &c.,
LE Sourd.
Berlin, July 19, 1870.

NORTH AND SOUTH GERMANY.

The following is the Address of the North German Parliament adopted on Wednesday in reply to the Speech from the Throne:—

The elevated language in which your Majesty addressed the North German Parliament has found a powerful echo in the German nation. One single thought animates all German hearts. It was with joy and pride that the nation learnt the earnestness and dignity with which your Majesty repelled the unheard-of presumption of France. The German people desires to live at peace with those nations which respect its independence. As at the time of the Wars of Liberation, a Napoleon forces us into a sacred struggle. Now, as then, calculations based upon the unfaithfulness of the German States will be shattered by the force of the German people. The misguided French nation will recognise when it is too late the bad seed it is sowing, now that the most reasonable portion of their fellow-countrymen have failed to avert a great national crime. A hard and violent struggle is before us. We rely upon the valour of our brothers in arms, who will not bend the knee before a foreign invader. We place our trust in our old and heroic King, to whom Providence has granted that he should in the eve of life bring to a close the war in which he fought in his youth. We place our trust finally in God, who will surely punish the wicked audacity of the invader. The people has risen unanimously, and public opinion throughout the world recognises the justice of our cause. Friendly nations see in our triumph a prospect of deliverance from the Bonapartist lust for power, and the injustice to which they have been subjected. The German people will attain its unity on the field of battle, in which are also at stake the honour, freedom, and peace of Europe and the welfare of peoples.

The address was adopted unanimously, and the deputies heard it read standing. Count Bismarck then laid on the table the papers relating to the war, and said that from the French Government he only possessed one document, namely, the declaration of war. He produced the telegram published in the newspapers, which had been described as a diplomatic note by the French Government, the statement of the facts of the dispute recently published by the *Prussian Official Gazette*, and a report dated the 12th inst. from Baron Werther, detailing a conversation with the Duke de Gramont. Count Bismarck said he did not lay this last despatch before the King, as the demand therein made for a letter of apology from His Majesty appeared to him ridiculous. The other documents presented were England's offer of mediation, and its rejection by Prussia, the French declaration of war, and the Prussian circular to the German Governments relative to the outbreak of war.

The North German Parliament reassembled this afternoon, and Dr. Simson, the President, announced that the address had been presented to the King at noon. On receiving it His Majesty expressed his thanks, and said:—"I look upon it as a pledge of success in the tasks which lie before me, before us all; it affords me a convincing assurance that we shall accomplish these tasks which the nation will never cease to pursue with unflinching perseverance." The War Grants and the bill for the enforcement of the law upon Federal nationality were read a first and second time without debate.

The Parliament adjourned to December 31st, having voted 18,000,000*l.* for the war. Dr. Simson addressed a few words to the House, and said:—"The labours of the representatives of the people are for the present at an end, and the work of arms will now take its course. May the blessing of the Almighty descend upon our people in this holy war! Long live King William, Commander-in-Chief of the German Army!" The session terminated amid loud and prolonged cheering.

There have been great demonstrations all over North Germany, including Hanover, where all parties are united, as well as in Nassau and Hesse Cassel, lately annexed. In Hamburg the merchants have offered magnificent gifts to the King, and six vessels filled with stone are ready to be sunk in the narrowest part of the Elbe. The port of Bremen has already been closed by the same means.

The advices from Frankfurt join in the enthusiasm displayed by the entire German population, and express extreme satisfaction that in the South there is even yet more ardour than in Prussia proper. "Travellers," it is said, "coming from Munich and Stuttgart report a unanimity of feeling common to all classes of the population. In the newly annexed provinces, too, Hanover and Hesse, as well as at Frankfurt, people are ready for all sacrifices, and volunteers come forward from every side." The Universities will close, just as in 1813.

Darmstadt, Wurtemberg, Baden, and Bavaria have now put their armies on a war footing, and the several legislatures have enthusiastically voted the supplies. Enormous crowds gave the King of Wurtemberg an ovation at Stuttgart, thanking His Majesty for having attached himself to the national cause and joined in the war against France. The King, Queen, and Prince William appeared on the balcony, and thanked the people for their demonstration.

The King of Prussia sent the following telegram to the King of Bavaria:—"On receipt of the telegram from your Majesty I immediately assumed the command of the Bavarian army, and I incorporated it with the Third Army Corps, placed under the command of the Crown Prince. By an unheard-of presumption we have been driven from the most pro-

found peace into war. Your real German attitude has electrified your people, and all Germany is now united as it never was at any former time. May God bless our arms in the fortunes of war! I tender you my most heartfelt thanks for your faithful adherence to our treaty upon which Germany rests." The King of Bavaria replied:—"Your telegram has awakened in me a joyful echo. The Bavarian troops, side by side with their glorious brethren in arms, will enter enthusiastically into the struggle for German right and German honour. May the war tend to the welfare of Germany and the safety of Bavaria!"

THE TWO COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF.

Though the Emperor Napoleon and King of Prussia will nominally command the French and Prussian forces, the operations will be directed on the one side by General Leboeuf, and on the other by General Moltke. The following brief sketch of these officers from the *Daily News* may be useful:—

"The first place in the Prussian military system, without doubt, belongs to General Count Von Moltke, in whom his countrymen believe Prussia possesses the first strategist of the age. The opinion, if not sound, is excusable. Moltke is by birth a Mecklenburger, and was born in 1800. He at first entered the service of Denmark, but at an early age transferred himself to that of Prussia, and devoted himself with unwearied energy to a scientific study of the conditions of success in war. In 1832 he became a staff officer, and three years later visited the East, where he was presented to the Sultan Mahmoud, who persuaded him to remain in Turkey several years and take part in the military reforms of which the army stood greatly in need, and to assist in the Syrian campaign. Having returned to Prussia, he was appointed in 1856 aide-de-camp to the present King, at that time the Crown Prince. In 1858 he was appointed Chief of the General Staff. In this capacity he is believed to have drawn up the plan of an expedition intended to arrest the progress of the French arms in Italy in 1859. Such at least was the suspicion of the French Emperor, which was supposed at the time to be the real cause of the sudden and surprising conclusion of the peace of Villafranca. In 1864 he accompanied Prince Frederick Charles as chief of his staff in the expedition which the former led against Denmark. His high reputation, however, rests on his most skilful direction of the war against Austria in 1866, the plan of which he had previously prepared. Moltke's name was very little heard of during the war, while those of his subordinates were trumpeted abroad. No man ever produced greater effects with less ostentation and noise. Only once, and then at Königgrätz, did he appear in front of the armies. Seated at his desk in the rear, he received through the field-telegraph a continuous stream of intelligence from all the corps, followed their movements on the map, transmitted his orders to the generals in command by the wires, and performed all this with such skill and foresight that not a movement failed, and every combination was made at the right moment. He is said to have worked out with his own hand, and himself calculated almost every detail of those operations, the consequences of which have astonished Europe. After victory had been realised, Moltke was joined with Bismarck as plenipotentiary of Prussia for the negotiations with the South German States, and when the preliminary peace with Austria had been signed, he received the Order of the Black Eagle, the highest decoration which the King of Prussia had so confer.

General Leboeuf has been removed from the Ministry of War to become Major-General of the Army of the Rhine; that is to say, he will not have a corps of his own, but will remain by the Emperor's side, as General Moltke did by the side of the King of Prussia in the Bohemian campaign. He is one of the new men of the Second Empire, having obtained the rank of colonel only in 1852. He is a scientific officer, and does not appear to have had any African experience. He is sixty-one years of age, was educated at the Ecole Polytechnique, of which he became one of the chiefs, and at the Artillery School at Metz. Marshal Niel is said to have had a high opinion of his abilities. He had an important artillery command in the Crimean war, at the close of which he was made a general of division. In the Italian campaign he was entrusted with the command of the artillery. He was the French General appointed to preside over the voting in Venetia in 1866, when that province was to be annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, and in his character of Imperial Commissioner handed over Venetia to the Italian Government. Last year he was appointed to succeed Marshal Niel as Minister of War, and remained in that post after M. E. Ollivier's accession. He is devoted to the Imperial political system, and thinks very little of Parliaments and responsible Ministers. His appointment is the most important one that has yet been made, and it is notable that in him the Emperor has chosen a scientific officer instead of a mere fighting soldier.

THE MITRAILLEUSE.

The mitrailleuse appears, from the mystery with which it is shrouded in France, to cause a deal of interest. There is one of these guns, however, in England, and it is at the present time deposited in the Royal Arsenal Store-room for the purpose of being put through a series of experiments under the direction of the Ordnance Select Committee. It is thus described:—

The mitrailleuse, in size, is about four feet long, and in appearance, at a short distance, when mounted on its small field carriage, very much like an ordinary 6-pounder. On closer inspection, it is noticed that the gun is bored and rifled with thirty-seven holes of the diameter of the ordinary service rifle barrel, all the holes radiating from the centre; and the breech, though very

different to other field pieces and very novel, is still very simply constructed, and square built. The mode of firing is to drop into the chamber in front of the breech a circular plate of three-eighths of an inch thick, resembling a section cut off the muzzle end of the gun, which contains in each hole a cartridge and ball, much resembling that in use for the Snider, and when that is done one turn of a crank at the side of the breech-box closes up the breech and forces the cartridges into their chambers ready for firing. The firing is then effected by the turning of a common crank handle on the opposite side, which forces the needles forward, as in all needle-guns, and the whole of the thirty-seven charges may be fired either singly or altogether at the will of the man in charge of the handle, who has only to turn it one degree for one shot, or make a perfect revolution with the handle to cause all the charges to explode simultaneously, or at least so nearly so as to render the volley apparently simultaneous. The whole time occupied in loading and firing is only three seconds, as these plates are kept all ready charged and fit for service in the two axle-tree boxes attached and in a limber, all of which are fitted up with compartments to receive them, and the plates are removed by grasping a simple bow handle fixed on the edge. On the gun being discharged by the turning of the handle the breech block is rapidly drawn back and the steel plate is lifted out with a lever apparatus attached and cleared of the cartridge cases by another instrument, so as to leave it ready for filling again. The experiments hitherto made tend to show the mitrailleuse can do all that is claimed for it, but it is suggested that if the thirty-seven shots were fired to scatter wider afield it would be a far more effective arm.

A letter from Metz says:—"In the French strength forty-two batteries of mitrailleuses are to be included. Great hopes are based upon this new and murderous arm, and its manufacture is being actively proceeded with." The Emperor has been assiduous in promoting experiments and improvements in this engine of war. The Prussians have a considerable supply, and their model is said to be superior to the French. All artillery officers are unanimous in declaring that mitrailleuses will only be able to be used in peculiar places and circumstances—in the breach of a fort, in a narrow defile, or in street-fighting. It is doubtless for this latter purpose that the French Government think they may want their present large stock. The range of the mitrailleuse being far inferior to that of the lightest field pieces, they would at once be silenced in the field.

ENGLAND AND THE WAR.

The *United Service Gazette* states that a council was held on Wednesday last at the War Office, to consider and mature such arrangements as might become necessary in consequence of any violation of neutrality on the part of either France or Prussia. The deliberations of the council have not, of course, transpired, but this much is certain, that twenty-five regiments are to be completed at once, in readiness for eventualities. The embodiment of an equivalent number of militia regiments would be a necessary consequence, and, indeed, a confident rumour has reached us that supplementary estimates with a view to militia embodiment are in preparation.

It is reported that several batteries of Royal Artillery have orders to be in readiness to start for various ports in the Mediterranean, to act with other troops as an "army of observation."

Among the *canards* which have recently been set afloat is a statement that the Cabinet have been considering the propriety of sending a body of troops to Antwerp, in order to protect the neutrality of Belgium; and that orders have been given to hold a sufficient detachment in readiness for the purpose. These reports are denied.

Mr. Edmond Beales, M.A., presided over a meeting of working men, held at the Whittington Club on Friday night to discuss the war. The president, Mr. Cremer, and Mr. Lucraft having spoken, Mr. Odger rose. He began by confessing that his sympathies were with the Prussians, and then observed that he hated Louis Napoleon as he hated hell—but he hated King William no less. This sentiment was received with loud cheers, and Mr. Odger went on to say that as long as they had aristocracy they would have kings, and as long as they had kings they would have war. They never had such an opportunity of telling kings, emperors, and priests that they—that England—could do without them. In the present instance war had been brought about by a stupid old king and a debauched emperor. It was resolved "that a special committee of seven be appointed to consider the best means of expressing the opinion of the working men of this country in reference to the war now declared between France and Prussia, the enormous mischief of standing armies in general, and the frightful evils caused by all war to industry, commerce, and civilisation; and that an address be issued to the people of Great Britain and Ireland, and a public meeting held."

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE WAR.

Mr. Gladstone spoke at some length on Saturday, presiding at the dinner of the Cobden Club. Referring to the war, the right hon. gentleman said:—

It is not for us who are here assembled, still less for me in the office I unworthily hold, to attempt to anticipate the judgment of posterity upon the great events which are now of daily occurrence; but this I may say, without assuming to myself the office of dispensing praise or blame, the pen of the historian will, I believe, hereafter relate that among all the wars by which the course of the nineteenth century has been chequered, there is none which might be characterised as a more unspeakable drawback, as more unmixedly sorrowful, more full of painful association, and also of grievous anticipation for those who love their kind, than that war which at this moment is breaking out. May it be tempered by the humane spirit of civilisation; may it be narrowed and restricted by the wisdom of those who are mercifully exempted from its range, and

may the Almighty, who disposes the hearts of men, turn towards peace and mercy the hearts of those upon whom it shall depend how long the rivers of human blood are to flow, and how long the earth is to blush for the follies of those who live upon her breast. We are here as Christians and as brothers; we are here upon the broadest ground which the conditions of humanity admit, and that was the ground marked out for us by the man whose name is commemorated in the title of this association. There are many assembled round this board who can testify to the breadth of character and ideas that belong to the Cobden Club; there are representatives of France and Germany, and I may say that many other illustrious friends would have been present had not their approach been intercepted by the calamitous occurrences of the time. I rejoice to think that the country near to us, limited in extent, and consequently in population, but illustrious in history and dear to Europe for the example she has presented, the country of Belgium, is represented at this board as you would wish her to be. I rejoice, also, to think that a great Power which has already asserted and demonstrated its capacity to weld an entire continent into a single State is also represented on this occasion.

Mr. Gladstone's remarks were warmly endorsed by the company. About 200 gentlemen were present at the dinner, including the Lord Chancellor and numerous members of Parliament.

PUBLIC FEELING IN THE UNITED STATES.

A special telegram in the *Daily News*, dated July 24, says:—

The sentiment of the press in the United States is all but unanimously in favour of Prussia. The *New York Tribune* accuses Napoleon of committing France to the most atrocious of modern wars, and says that this is a contest between the people of Prussia and the Napoleonic dynasty for the integrity of the Prussian nationality. The *New York Times* takes substantially the same view. The *Herald* denounces the action of the Emperor as prompted by purely dynastic considerations, with which the friends of the people have no sympathy. The *World* alone among the leading New York papers is on the side of France. The *World*, however, has always been the Emperor's apologist. The principal papers of the Western cities are almost all in sympathy with Prussia. This is especially the case with the journals of Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, all those being places where Germans form a large element of the population, and exert great political influence. An immense mass meeting of Germans was held here last Wednesday evening to express sympathy with Prussia. The meeting was addressed by Senator Carl Schurz and General Franz Sigel, both exiles of 1848, Governor Salomon, of Wisconsin, and other prominent German citizens. It is remarked that the Radicals and political refugees are as hearty in support of King William as any of their brethren. The sentiment of the native-born Americans, influenced partly by this unanimity of German opinion and partly by conviction, is that Napoleon has made war without cause. The Americans have an especial friendship for the French people, but feel deep resentment against the Emperor, first, on account of the *coup d'état*; secondly, on account of the Mexican invasion; and, thirdly, on account of his hostility towards the North during the late war. During that war the Germans furnished 200,000 men to the Northern armies. The French immigrants were too few to exercise any appreciable influence upon public opinion.

The Fenians, who have called a convention to meet at Cincinnati on the 23rd of August for the purpose of devising some means of taking advantage of the present crisis, are somewhat disposed to sympathise with France, principally for the reason that England takes the other side. There have been indications of an attempt in Democratic political organisations to catch Fenian votes by anti-German manifestations, but little will come of this, for the feeling of the country is overpowering.

PRUSSIA AND THE OFFER OF MEDIATION.

Count Bismark has laid the following letter before the German Parliament, being the reply to the offer of mediation:—

Berlin, July 18.

I have hastened to bring to His Majesty's knowledge your Excellency's letter of the 17th, suggesting that Prussia and France should request the good offices of a friendly Power for the maintenance of peace, and stating the readiness of the British Government to take such mediatory steps, should they be desired. His Excellency commanded me to express to your Excellency his sincere gratitude for your friendly and humane endeavours to avert from two nations the calamity of a war which must become alike injurious to the prosperity of all Europe. His Majesty desires me to add that his sincere love of peace, so well known to the British Government, makes him ever disposed to enter upon negotiations calculated to secure the maintenance of peace on a basis compatible with the honour and national self-respect of Germany. Were France to declare her readiness to enter upon such negotiations, we should be happy to avail ourselves of your Excellency's proposal. France has taken the initiative for war, and has held to it even after the first complication had, in the eyes of England, as well as in our own, been virtually removed. After this, and the intense excitement caused in Germany by the French menaces, were we to take the initiative for the negotiations intended to be set on foot, our motives would be liable to be misunderstood. Our strength lies in the resolve of the nation to vindicate its honour, its rights, and its national dignity; as to the French Government, it has proved itself tolerably independent of any such feeling among its subjects. Thus acquitting myself of his Majesty's commands and requesting your Excellency to bring His Majesty's views to the knowledge of Her British Majesty's Government, I avail myself for the opportunity, &c.,

His Excellency Lord Augustus Loftus.

THE NEUTRAL POWERS.

From every quarter it seems to be the general opinion that all the great Powers will be perfectly neutral.

A telegram from St. Petersburg says that the Russian Government thus defines its position in the

official newspaper:—"The Imperial Russian Government has made all possible endeavours to avert the outbreak of war. Unfortunately, the rapidity with which the warlike resolutions were taken rendered our efforts for the maintenance of peace abortive. The Emperor is resolved to observe neutrality so long as Russia's interests are not affected by the eventualities of the campaign. The Russian Government undertakes to support every endeavour to circumscribe the operations and diminish the duration of the war." Prince Gortschakoff has never left Wildbad.

The Vienna advices state that Austria is wholly unprepared to join in the present war, and that the difference between the nationalities of the Empire furnish the best guarantees for neutrality, since in Austria proper the German feeling is daily increasing, while in Hungary the disposition is in favour of France. In order to avoid all that might be misconstrued into warlike preparations, the great manoeuvres projected for this autumn have been countermanded in Austria. An Austrian squadron of evolution is expected at Toulon.

An official circular has been issued by the Belgian Government, announcing that reassuring declarations have been received from the belligerents with regard to the respect that will be paid to the neutrality of Belgium.

In Germany the neutrality of Denmark is distrusted; and the occupation of the Elbe by the French is regarded as the signal for the departure of the Danish fleet from Copenhagen. The Prussians are sending a large force to Duppel.

According to statements in the Paris journals Italy has resolved to maintain a friendly attitude towards France in the present contest. A letter from Florence, dated the 18th inst., in the *Temps*, says that Italy will mass 15,000 men in the direction of the Swiss Lakes, and probably six other divisions on the Po. Large bodies of troops will also be concentrated in Tuscany, chiefly between Florence and Leghorn, and between Leghorn and Bologna.

The Madrid papers generally blame the French Emperor for declaring war against Prussia. Spain appears to be quite tranquil, and is intent, it is declared, on observing strict neutrality.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Most of the London daily papers have correspondents at Berlin as well as at Paris, and there have been several at Metz and Strasburg, several of whom have come to grief. We give a few extracts from the voluminous letters which throw light on the position of affairs and the sentiments of the French and Prussian peoples:—

THE NEEDLE-GUN AND THE CHASSEPOT.—Not much apprehension should be entertained as to the rumour that the Prussian troops are imperfectly armed. It may be that a new gun was to have been supplied to them, yet they could not be much, if any, more efficient were another gun in their hands. They are not only carefully trained to use the needle-gun, but they regard it as a matchless weapon. A Prussian officer of long experience has assured me that trials of the Chassepot and the needle-gun have been conducted with a view to ascertain the relative advantages of the one over the other. The result has been to convince the authorities that, as a weapon to be depended upon under all emergencies of a campaign, the needle-gun is superior to the Chassepot. He candidly admitted that the Chassepot has some points of superiority over the other; but he thought that while these would be discernible at such a butchery as that of Mentana, and would excite applause when mere target practice was undertaken, yet that the undoubted drawback of the weapon would prove most serious during the progress of a hard-fought and long-contested fight. Unfortunately the world will not have long to wait before the soundness of these opinions will be demonstrated on a large scale.—*Daily News Letter from Baden.*

THE PRUSSIAN ARMAMENTS.—Exactly a week has elapsed since M. Benedetti stopped the King of Prussia in the Kurgarten at Ems—still, contrary to common expectation, not a shot has yet been fired by the French. From information received here there can be no doubt that the Emperor immediately after the rupture meant to hurl the troops of Châlons into Central Germany, thus separating the North from the South, and rendering it more easy for the disaffected elements in the latter to side with him. But the marvellous rapidity with which a Prussian force was concentrated on the Rhine, and the cry of indignation which resounded from one end of Germany to the other when the news of his latest *coup d'état* in telegraphic terseness spread from city to city, from district to district, prevented him from carrying out his design. It is well for Prussia that he has hesitated and left her time to arm. The first troops hastily scraped together from the garrisons of the province were on the peace footing, with 400 men to the battalion instead of 1,000; eight days have already passed by, and no more than fourteen are required to mobilise this Spartan land. Already a sufficient corps has been drawn together between Mayence and Cologne to meet the invader and stop his progress until the rest of the army can be put in fighting trim. In a few days the last arrangements for the defence will be perfected, when the numbers continuing to pour in without intermission will soon enable the generals in command to assume the offensive, and turn the tables upon the enemy. In addition to this, the Army of the Rhine—another powerful host—is being drawn together in Southern Germany, chiefly consisting of Bavarians, Württembergers, &c., but flavoured with a strong Prussian admixture. Provision will be also made against a landing from the sea as well as against the diminutive gunboats the French mean to float on the Rhine.—*Berlin Letter, July 20.*

PUBLIC FEELING IN RHINELAND.—I have conversed with men who have enriched themselves by their vineyards or their manufactories. They tell me that the sound of the busy engine is still, and that the hope of a profitable harvest has departed. To them the loss will be incalculable and irreparable. But they spend no time in counting the cost or calculating chances. Their sole complaint is that years have rendered them in-

capable of taking the field and combating for the good old cause. That they will lose enormously by hostilities is accepted as a misfortune rather than deplored as an evil. Whether friend or foe win the battle, the manufactory must remain closed, or the vineyard must be made desolate. Yet these things are preferred to a state of things which would represent something worse than pecuniary loss, and something more deplorable than a cowardly acquiescence in accomplished facts, provided the silence were due to the victory of the French. In the railway-carriage, at the public table of the hotels—everywhere there is perfect unanimity here. Resistance to the death to the insolent undertaking of a misguided old man, who thinks that a dynasty which is detested by all men of sense can be founded on a pool of blood, is the cry which animates old and young, rich and poor. The peasant who drags out a precarious and miserable existence on rye-bread, is as ardent an enemy of France as the man of wealth to whom this world is a paradise. One and all maintain that, rather than undergo a defeat which would be alike shameful and unendurable, no exertion can be deemed too great, and no success too praiseworthy. The spectacle of a nation forgetting intestine differences, uniting as one man against the common foe, is rarely witnessed in these days of indifference to the most noble calls, and lukewarmness in the presence of the most purely personal claims.—*Letter from Berlin.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

The French Ambassador in London has sent a communication to Lord Granville, stating that the Emperor Napoleon has given orders to his commanders by land and sea to observe towards neutral Powers the principles laid down in the Declaration of the Congress of Paris in 1856, which are as follows:—1. Privateering is abolished. 2. A neutral flag covers enemy's merchandise, except contraband of war. 3. Merchandise of neutrals, except contraband of war, sailing under an enemy's flag is not seizable. 4. Blockades to be binding must be effectual.

Addresses have been sent by the French Peace Society to the Emperor Napoleon and the King of Prussia, appealing to them as Christians, and in the name of religion, to refrain from war. An address in favour of peace has also been drawn up by the same society, and inserted in several of the French journals.

The French and Prussian Governments have informed the Swiss Government that they will respect the neutrality of ambulances, in accordance with the stipulations of the Geneva Convention of 1864.

It has been decided by the French Government that Prussian subjects and the subjects of the allies of Prussia now in France or her colonies shall be allowed to remain if their conduct gives no reason for complaint. To enter French territory special permission will be required. Merchant ships now in the ports of France will be allowed to remain for thirty days. They will then receive a safe conduct to return home or to the port of embarkation. Vessels bound to France on French account will not be liable to capture. French vessels in Prussian ports are to be allowed six weeks from the outbreak of the war.

British ships have been chartered at Newcastle to permanently supply the French fleet in the Baltic with coal.

The Baden Government, in reply to an inquiry made by the French Government, has stated that it never intended to employ explosive bullets.

The correspondent of a French paper, writing from Thionville, says that while travelling thither from Metz he saw a peasant crouched in a field digging at the root of an old willow. "He is burying his money," said the guard; "the peasants of Lorraine have always done so in time of war."

It has been officially announced in Berlin that French merchantmen will not be captured by the German fleet, except under circumstances in which capture would be justifiable, if they were neutral ships.

The *Constitutionnel* announces that Bremen, Hamburg, Lubeck, Dantzig, Stettin, and Königsberg are to be immediately subjected to an effective blockade.

Since the enrolment of volunteers for the duration of the war commenced in France, about 100,000 have presented themselves, of whom about 15,000 were from Paris.

The *Official Journal* repeats the order of Major-General Lebeuf that no journalist will be admitted to the head-quarters of the Army of the Rhine or any other corps. A service of news will be organised at the outset of the campaign.

The newspaper correspondents at the seat of war are already getting into trouble. One of the specials of the *Times* was captured at Metz, and locked-up all night, and two other gentlemen, British officers, have been sent off by railway under the charge of gendarmes.

The Germans in St. Louis and Baltimore have subscribed 1,000,000 dols. for the wounded soldiers and the widows of those who shall fall in battle.

An Ultramontane journal, the *Paris Monde*, is of opinion that the present war will have a most important influence upon Catholicism, and that the triumph of France is necessary in order to check the progress of Protestantism as represented by Prussia.

In regard to coals, Her Majesty's Government adhere to the circular of Lord Malmesbury in 1859, stating that coal may, under certain circumstances, be properly considered contraband of war, and that the decision rests with the prize court of the captor.

On Wednesday a Zouave came in for a large share of popular enthusiasm in Paris as he trundled along with a parrot on the barrel of his chapeau, screaming, "A Berlin, à Berlin!"

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that the departure of

the Emperor for the Army of the Rhine, so constantly announced by the semi-official journals, and as often postponed, is retarded, owing to His Majesty being still a sufferer from an ancient malady of his.

French and Prussian agents are busily employed buying horses in England.

The subscriptions which have been collected in France for the relief of the wounded already amount to a million francs (40,000*l.*)

This day, the 27th inst., has been appointed to be observed as a general fast day in Prussia to implore the blessing of the Almighty on the German army.

In the Corps Législatif the bill prohibiting the publication of news of military operations was passed by 209 against 19 votes. It has created general dissatisfaction. The Legislature is now adjourned.

The *Dover Chronicle* says that to provide against any contingency, the King of the Belgians has forwarded all the more valuable of his plate to England. It was brought over to Dover in the Belgian mail-packet, and was at once forwarded to London, where it will be deposited in a place of safety.

The *Cologne Gazette* reports from Darmstadt that both the Hessian Premier, Herr von Dalwigk, and the Grand Duke, are suspected of coquetting with France.

There has been little harvesting in Germany. The destruction of the growing crop will, it is feared, be serious.

An order has been given to a contractor at Dublin for 2,000 horses for the French army. There are also several Prussian troop-horse buyers in Dublin.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* states that several thousand horses have been taken by requisition from the Omnibus Company for the use of the army. At the same time the great Paris Cab Company has lost 1,500 of its drivers, who have been summoned to their duty as soldiers of the reserve or Garde Mobile.

The Continental services, *via* Dover and Calais, and Folkestone and Boulogne, in connection with the Northern of France Railway, to Paris and Switzerland, &c., are maintained with their usual regularity, and as regards the train services on the Continent, the Eastern Railway of France and the route through Belgium and Germany to Switzerland are the only communications at present interfered with by the war. There is no interruption in the traffic to and from Belgium, and there is little or no delay experienced by passengers reaching Switzerland by the Lyons Railway from Paris, *via* Pontarlier, Macon, and Geneva. To facilitate the movements of travellers the English Foreign Office now issue passports on the day of application, provided the applications are in proper form. At the present time there is no examination of passports at Boulogne or Calais.

Owing to the war the price of butter at Cork has greatly advanced. On first and second quality, 5*s.*; thirds, 4*s.*; fourths, 7*s.*; fifths and sixths, 3*s.* This advance is on heavy salted butter; on mild there is an advance of 3*s.* In England nearly all leading articles of food have advanced.

The hypothesis of the Prussians getting to Paris is no joke. The Government is very seriously preparing for such a contingency. All householders within a thousand yards of the fortifications—that is to say within the region of *servitudes militaires*—have received notice to quit.

Marshal Baraguay d'Hilliers has assumed the command of the Army of Paris.

In reply to a question from our ambassador in Paris, the Duc de Gramont states that in case of the capture of German ships, neutral cargoes which may be found on board them will be restored to the parties interested, on proof of their nationality. "To go further than this," continues the Duc de Gramont, "and free enemy's ships for the sole reason that they are bound to a neutral port and have put to sea before the commencement of hostilities, would be an actual relinquishment of the rights of war." This line of conduct, it is added, is strictly in conformity with that adopted by France at the suggestion of England, and in concert with her, during the Crimean war.

Several French men-of-war have been seen off Wick during the last few days. One large vessel went through the Pentland Firth on Friday, and returned on Saturday forenoon, steering eastward slowly. She is evidently cruising in search of German vessels, several of which are due from America, and are likely ignorant of the war.

On Saturday the Empress Eugenie visited the French fleet at Cherbourg, and was received, it is stated, with much enthusiasm. Admiral Bouet-Willanmes has assumed command of the fleet, and has issued an address to the sailors.

The French sympathy demonstrations continue in Ireland. A Dublin telegram states that thirty thousand persons met on Sandymount Strand on Sunday. Great numbers of green and tricolour flags, and thirty city bands playing the "Marseillaise" and national airs, were present. A drum was presented to one of the bands which lost an instrument in the demonstration of Monday last, with an address of sympathy from French residents in Dublin. No disturbance. Another great demonstration of a similar character took place in Cork. A Belfast telegram states that Mr. Butt, Q.C., had arrived there, and was met by a large assemblage of the Nationalist party. He was asked to make some allusion to the Franco-Prussian war, but declined to do so.

Paris correspondents point to the success of the Patriotic Fund as an instance of the strong national feeling which the war has aroused in France. The Duke de Mortemart offers a hundred thousand francs, and the Paris stockbrokers have subscribed 60,000 francs. Oppenheim, the German banker, has

beaten the Duke de Mortemart in generosity; though his property round Cologne is being roughly handled with a view to the better defence of that place, he has come forward with a subscription of 120,000*l.* This financier is familiarly known here as O. de Cologne. M. Thomas, the wealthy French notary, who promises 4*l.* a day to the Government as long as the war lasts, offers to bet 8,000*l.* to 4,000*l.* that the French will be in Berlin about the 15th of August, money deposited.

HOW THE WAR WILL TELL ON AMERICA.—The United States will sustain a loss of 200,000 emigrants per annum, "coupled with a fall of 15 per cent. in their bonds, the impossibility of getting money for their railroads, the extinction of their large tobacco trade with Bremen and their cotton trade with Hamburg, and the cessation of all business between Germany and 7,000,000 of Germans in America."—*Times City Letter.*

A MARRIAGE INTERRUPTED.—A *Daily News* correspondent speaks of one of the suddenly-called line soldiers, who was to have been married the next day. The lover was in decidedly low spirits. His comrades tried to cheer him, but he wouldn't be cheered; in vain they sung songs, which somehow always terminated with the first verse. "He has lost his honeymoon," exclaimed one. "We are all about to have a honeymoon," responded another. "Madame and I are in our last quarter," followed up the German with a good-humoured gibe at the advanced age of each.

THE ADIUT OF THE FRENCH TROOPS.—We read in a Paris letter that many of the corps did not show to much advantage. A good many looked dejected, and not a few were drunk. This is not surprising. The friends and relations of the poor fellows flock to see them, and weep and lament over them as if they were going to certain death, and the soldier is overcome by their contagious grief, and often cries for company, but certainly not from disinclination to the risks of a campaign. "I had seventeen of my relations who came to see me off," an officer declared the other day. "They were chiefly women, and all were crying. What could I do? I cried, too, like any calf."

FALSE "NEWS."—It is very difficult (says a Paris letter) to find any wheat in the chaff which is forwarded to us in large quantities from all parts of Europe. A telegram in one paper says that the Sultan has offered to place his forces at the disposal of France: another journal says that the French Minister has just arrived from Stockholm with a similar offer from the King of Sweden, that England is only waiting for the first gun to be fired to make a dart upon Egypt and seize the Suez Canal. The Prussian fleet, we are told, is lying in Torbay; and though the Orleanist Princes were at first suspected of having inspired the recent articles in the *Times*, they are now going to take service in Denmark in case that Power casts in its lot with France.

THE "MARSEILLAISE" A FASHIONABLE SONG.—We read in a Paris letter that on Monday week the Emperor entertained the officers of the garrison of St. Cloud to the number of eighty. The Empress and a few ladies of honour were present. There were no toasts, but after dinner the band suddenly struck up the "Marseillaise." A Court chronicler says that the officers, greatly astonished, glanced towards the Emperor, who was radiant, while the Empress blushed and hid her face in her napkin. The enthusiasm was such as beggars description; the guests could hardly refrain from catching up the revolutionary anthem, they shook hands and wept—it was grandiose. The Emperor complimented the musicians, and the party went into the garden to sip coffee. The Prince Imperial then made his appearance, and discoursed on the relative merits of sword and lance. At the Italian Opera House on Wednesday there was an extraordinary scene. It was expected that the Emperor would be present, and the house was filled to overflowing. The play was Auber's *Masaniello*, but it was understood that Marie Sess would sing the "Marseillaise," and there were throughout the performance loud calls for the "national hymn." Mme. Sess came forward, her portly person draped in a green mantle studded with the Imperial bees. After the orchestra had played a few measures, M. Emile de Girardin rushed to the front of his box, and cried, "Let everybody stand." The injunction was obeyed, and the "Marseillaise" was sung with great effect and rapturously applauded.

M. PREVOST PARADOL, the French Minister at Washington, and the brilliant writer, shot himself with a pistol on the 18th. The *Times* correspondent telegraphs as follows:—"There is much speculation as to the cause of M. Prevost Paradol's suicide. The evidence on the 19th before the coroner failed to elicit any explicit information on the condition of his mind, and the jury found a verdict that he killed himself while labouring under temporary aberration of mind. He bought pistols on Tuesday, and gave a letter to M. Jardin, Chancellor of Legation, saying he should open it if any accident happened. M. Jardin gave evidence that he opened it after the suicide. He asked M. Jardin to see to sending his family home if any accident happened. M. Jardin also testified that M. Paradol's mind appeared affected by the hot weather. Public belief is that the sudden change in European affairs tended to cause the suicide. M. Paradol's friends, MM. Thiers, Favre, and others, being in opposition to the Emperor. In conversation on Tuesday with a friend in Washington, M. Paradol spoke of this, saying his friends would believe he knew Napoleon's warlike intentions before leaving France, and would accuse him of bad faith. Since M. Paradol's arrival the change in Europe had profoundly impressed him."

Literature.

"NEW THEORIES AND THE OLD FAITH."

This is a small but a very remarkable book. Its size is in inverse proportion to its worth. It is not, as its title might possibly seem to imply, an attempt disadvantageously to contrast the instabilities of "new theories" with the unchanging character of the "old faith." Harmony, not contrast, is its object. It is the attempt of a clear and vigorous thinker—of a man whose thoughts are manifestly growths, not manufactures—to show that two positions deemed by most minds inconsistent with each other are in no wise really so; that it is possible, on the one hand, frankly to accept the latest theories of modern physical science, and yet loyally to hold to the fundamental verities of the Christian faith.

Whatever may be thought of the success of Mr. Picton's effort, or of the means by which he has striven to attain his object, one thing, at any rate, it is impossible to deny to it. It is a transparently honest attempt of the kind. No difficulty that fairly weighs against what is usually held to be "the old faith" is pared down or ignored for a single instant. No point of real antagonism in the conclusions of modern science to hitherto received views of the Bible is ever blinked or lost sight of. The conditions of the problem of reconciliation, if reconciliation be possible—and Mr. Picton aims to show that it is—are fairly stated. But there is something more than the mere honesty of this little work that gives it its value in our judgment. It is full of profound and suggestive thought. With a style that to most men would be a sore temptation to write for the sake of fine writing, Mr. Picton has nevertheless so resolutely guarded himself against such a snare that, if we were to complain at all of what he has done, it would be that his work has occasionally lost in clearness by the concentration of his thought. There are passages not a few in Mr. Picton's little book which rise into lofty and chastened eloquence; but, as a whole, we fancy it must have been no easy thing for an ordinary congregation to have followed the course of the argument of these lectures. They are lectures that are better read than heard, and they abundantly repay perusal. By their publication Mr. Picton has shown himself one of the foremost thinkers we have amongst us. Not that we always agree with Mr. Picton. There are statements in the book that we acknowledge have not a little startled us, and have made us more than once wonder whether it would be possible for a consistent thinker like Mr. Picton to stop where he has done. In the heat of the fire that he has kindled to consume what he holds to be the "wood, hay, stubble" that men have built on the eternal foundation of the Gospel of Christ, we doubt whether the flames here and there have not left their blackened marks on the foundation itself. But notwithstanding this, and we say it with no little sense of responsibility, Mr. Picton's work is just the kind of book we should like to put into the hands of any one who, "perplexed in faith but pure in deeds," had finally given up all hope of reconciling the faith of his early boyhood with the intellectual convictions of his manhood. He would find in it, at any rate, a demonstration that it is possible to accept to the full all the developments of modern scientific thought, and yet to adhere with unfaltering faith to the revelation of God in Christ as the hope of the world.

The volume consists of five lectures, followed by a series of appendices that are not the least valuable part of the book. The first lecture is entitled the "Soul's longing after a final cause." Its object is twofold. First, to show that atheism is an impossible resting-place for humanity. The primary and most indestructible need of man's consciousness is the need of a "final cause" that will interpret to him the mystery of himself, of life, of the universe. A striking and beautiful passage expresses this need of man:—

"As a man he cannot help himself: final causes will obtrude upon him, whether he likes it or not. For as a man he not only sees and classifies, but he wistfully thinks and wonders. There are relations between himself and the universe which no analysis of sensuous observations can exhaust. The starry sky has some nameless grandeur, which no results of mathematical calculation can express. The tender clouds, whose colours he analysis with his prism, speak a language to his heart which no prismatic chart can interpret. And amongst such incalculable relations between himself and the universe is the wistful longing after inner meaning and ultimate aim which the enigma of creation always excites in the contemplative soul. Most natural is the artless hymn which represents the young child as ap-

pealing to the little star on high, and exclaiming, 'How I wonder what you are!' So all life long we stand (and ?) gaze at, the vision expanding from a star to a universe, while still all our cry is of wonder what it is. And this inquiry after what is, includes manifestly a longing after the significance and purpose of appearances; that is, it involves the hunger of the soul for a final cause of creation."

It is the second part of this first lecture that will more probably provoke dissent than the first. Its object is to show that men attain the final cause of their creation by moral rectitude rather than by accuracy of intellectual conviction. The position stated thus would hardly be denied, but Mr. Picton states it apparently to press it to its extreme limits when he says:—"I cannot and dare not believe that in any individual man the final cause of his creation is wholly missed because, in the candid exercise of his reason, he arrives at erroneous opinions 'even as to the being of God.'" On which we remark only this, that if our intellectual convictions are as much a matter of moral responsibility as our actions are, it seems to us that we are not competent to decide this extreme case either one way or the other. It is impossible for us to tell how far that intellectual atheism itself may not be the missing of the final cause of a man's creation. The materials for the judgment are not in our hands. We leave it, confident of this, that our judgment, were we to pronounce it, can neither be so merciful nor so kind as His with whom alone it will ultimately rest.

The second lecture is entitled the "God-consciousness in humanity," and is prefaced by two felicitously-chosen texts:—"Nevertheless, 'I am continually with thee'; 'If haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us.'" In one respect it is, to our mind, the most important lecture of the five. Its chief purpose is the purpose of the book, as we take it, to exhibit the possibility of a religious faith in God and His redemption of the world, be the progress of scientific speculation what it may. Mr. Picton shall state his object in his own words—the italics are ours:—

"That some theories totally inconsistent with old religious opinions are fully established, only stolidity, or a faith desperate through ignorance of its own immortal essence, can possibly deny. And surely it is intolerable to go on any longer holding our religious faith as though on sufferance of imperfect knowledge—miserable to hold our ground like tenants along the line of an unfinished railway, who hope against hope that the bankruptcy of the company or some diversion may occur to save their old habitations. It is necessary, not merely to yield a grudging admission to such new facts as are thrust upon our attention, but also, if possible, once for all, to take some view of the spiritual nature which shall be entirely independent of all contingencies of future opinion, because it can find scope for them all."

In pursuance of this end, Mr. Picton endeavours to supply a history of the genesis and progress of the "God-consciousness in humanity," which shall be consistent with the development hypothesis, for although Mr. Picton does not explicitly refer to him, he is manifestly thinking of Mr. Darwin's theory throughout. And it is in connection with the development theory that the following weighty and well-timed words occur, with the truth of which we heartily sympathise and concur:—

"The danger of misconception here arises from the strange but inveterate tendency to suppose that Divine action is necessarily sudden, complete, and incapable of progress through various degrees of perfection. When geology first became a science, many seemed to think that it necessarily ignored, or rather, denied, the agency of a Creator. For if God did not make the universe in six days, and each main division of it in a second of time, they could not conceive that God made it at all. So when it began to be maintained that species were the result of gradually-accumulating modifications of structure, inherited by successive generations, many seemed to impersonate Development as a sort of huge, ugly idol which was set up as a rival to the Creator. They could not conceive that it was really God who made an elephant, unless He did it in one particular way, that is, unless he gathered a heap of inorganic dust together, and commanded it instantly to become a living animal. If the theory of the process be changed, and instead of springing instantly out of inorganic dust, the elephant is supposed to be the result of successive modifications, according to an ascertainable law, then to such minds as these it seems that Divine energy is entirely eliminated from the process, and creation explained without God. Yet a little reflection would show that it is just as easy to conceive God working gradually as suddenly; and a little more reflection would show that no theory which touches the process implies any opinion one way or the other as to the original energy by which the process is worked out."

The third, fourth, and fifth lectures in this volume, entitled respectively, "Inspiration," "Infallibility," "The Use and Abuse of the Bible," are, as their titles indicate, upon cognate subjects. The conclusions of the first of these three lectures form the foundation on which the remaining two are built. We regret that the pressure upon our space forbids us following the argument throughout; we are compelled to content ourselves with indicating, as faithfully as we can, its outline, and with

pointing out in what respects we differ from him. Mr. Picton's idea of Inspiration is best stated in his own words. It is "a divine impulse which takes the form of intense purity of moral feeling, of possession by a lofty purpose, of a fulness of life which energises in various proportions every faculty of heart and mind." We are not sure that we exactly understand this explanation of Inspiration. If it be intended as a definition, the definition itself needs defining. For, as it seems to us, it is both too narrow and too wide. Too narrow, inasmuch as it leaves no room, possibly Mr. Picton intended it to leave none, for those parts specially of the Old Testament, in which it would be hard to deny Inspiration upon any theory, but in which there is very little else beyond the dry collection of historical details. Too wide, inasmuch it leaves room to include within it, and Mr. Picton is careful to tell us he intends it should include, as *ejusdem generis* the utterances of a Paul or a Marcus Aurelius. "Show me," he says, "the man whose moral and spiritual stature rises above his times, and who earlier than his fellows notes the prophetic tokens of the coming day: a man, who by a profound insight discerns, and by heroic faith meets the critical periods: a man who is driven by an impulse, the source of which no reflection can search, to sink all private interests in the ennoblement of human life and the glory of God, and I care not what his creed, his race, or his country may be—there I hail and reverence an inspired man." And again "such seasons of special activity," of inspiration, that is, "we may recognise perhaps in the development of the Caucasian race: perhaps in its separation into the Aryan and Semitic branches: perhaps in the golden ages of imagination which generated their respective mythologies: perhaps in the severance of the Hebrew family from their Chaldean conquerors: more certainly in the emancipation of the Hebrews under the sublime spiritual dominion of Moses; clearly in the pure aspirations and impassioned protests of psalmists and prophets; and most plainly in the glorious outburst of spiritual life at the Christian era." We say that a definition that includes under one common genus of inspiration phenomena so diverse as these, is too wide, not because we are afraid to acknowledge the operation of the spirit of God in the great crises of Pagan development—we do that gladly and unreservedly—but because such a definition practically makes an authoritative standard of truth impossible. It leaves, in each instance, the amount of the authority of inspiration to be determined by the individual conscience. Mr. Picton acknowledges this, and claims it as one of the consequences of his theory. He says expressly, "The authority of inspiration rests only in the efficacy of its appeal to the tribunal of conscience." On his account of it, it must be so. For its "notes" are a variable, not a constant quantity. They depend as much on the subjective condition of the recipient, as upon the objective characteristics of the supposed inspired utterance. If I—for it comes to this—I am unable to recognise in it any of those moral characteristics that determine inspiration, then to me it is not, and cannot, be an inspired word. For example, and we cannot do better than take the very one Mr. Picton gives, in his own words—"My judgment would naturally be that it is quite impossible for any dead man to come back to life. But I give up my own judgment in deference to the moral authority of men, who certainly testified that they had seen this very thing happen, and whom I believe to have been quite incapable of telling a lie. On the other hand, if the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews is rightly understood as saying that no Christian who relapsed into deadly sin had any chance of salvation, I must certainly hesitate to submit my faith in God's love to his denial; because I am by no means sure what opportunities he had of knowing." Now, not to urge the objection that here we have a new condition of inspiration introduced, viz., competent knowledge of the facts, it is manifest that on such a theory there can be no positive authority in any external revelation at all. The Bible may have authority, but it is only moral, not positive. Its authority over one depends just as much upon me as upon it. "There is," says Mr. Picton, speaking of the Bible, "as much authority as the Word has force enough to carry, and as I have susceptibility enough to feel."

Now, supposing for the moment that such is the case with regard to inspiration generally, a grave and momentous question is at once started. In what position, then, do we stand to the utterances of our Lord? Are we at liberty accept or to reject them, according to the dictates of our own "verifying faculty"? When, for example, our Lord says, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it, and was

"glad," are we allowed "to hesitate to submit our faith" to this assertion, because "we are by no means sure what opportunities he had of knowing." Or when Christ is reported to have made the "King" say to "them on his left hand," "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels," are we at liberty to reject the authority of such a saying on the ground that it violates our own religious consciousness? In one word, does the authority of the sayings of Christ, like the authority of inspiration generally, "rest only in the efficacy of their appeal to the tribunal of conscience"? This is a question which any man holding Mr. Picton's view of inspiration is bound to face. Does Mr. Picton face it? He does, but not, as it seems to us, to give to it any satisfactory reply. He acknowledges, and it is but just to him to say as much, in the heartiest and most loyal words, the essential and conscious Divinity of our Lord. But, at the same time, he admits that Christ was sometimes mistaken in His use of the Old Testament. "It can hardly be denied," his words are, "that the Lord Jesus does so far adopt the customs of the time as to speak in the ordinary manner of generally recognised Messianic predictions." We are not therefore to set up "incidental allusions in our Lord's discourses as a sufficient reply to the most impregnable conclusions"; to do so, would be to assume the dogma of Christ's omniscience when upon earth, and this is to assume that which is impossible, in Mr. Picton's view, to believe. "Even Christ Himself, though so consciously Divine, claimed not on earth equality with God. He arrogated to Himself no consciousness of omniscience, nor any supernatural knowledge, except what bore upon the mission He came to fulfil." So far Mr. Picton takes us, but no farther. He does not tell us the limits of the possibility of error in Christ's teaching. He does, as it appears to us, and we should be heartily grieved unwittingly to misrepresent him in this in the least, hint more than once that Christ's authority rests not upon the infallible truth of the words that He uttered, but rather upon the amount of force with which they appeal to the religious instincts of our nature. Christ's authority, in a word, like that of the Bible generally, is moral, not positive.

But if this be so, the question still comes back, how are we to determine the amount of submission we are to give to His teaching at all? Is it, must it not be on such a theory, left for each man to decide for himself? And if so, where is the ultimate criterion of truth itself? The answer can only be—in ourselves, not in Christ. And any theory of inspiration that carries with it a consequence like that, carries with it also its own destruction. The premises break down beneath the weight of the conclusion they bear.

We should be sorry, however, if, by these strictures on Mr. Picton's theory of Inspiration, we were to suggest even a hint of his own loyalty to Christ. No man who reads this book could ever doubt that. For Him he confesses "all the reverence and love which a devotion at least sincere, though far, far too inadequate, can give." And inconsistent as it may seem to us with such a theory of Christ's authority as Mr. Picton maintains, it is doubtless not so to him, when he adds, "and not only is His Spirit our unfailing inspiration, but His word remains to us the highest law." Of that inspiration this book is full, and we can wish it no better success than that its words may reach some who for long have been vainly "crying for the light," and may bring them to Him "who is and ever will be the only light and life of men." Pascal's great words have yet to find their fulfilment—"in Jesus Christ all contradictions are reconciled."

BURTON'S HISTORY OF SCOTLAND.*

We are so accustomed to have everything connected with the career of Mary of Scots discussed in a party spirit, that it is refreshing to find a history in which there is not a single trace of that strong partisan feeling which disfigures so many, if not indeed the majority, of narratives of the period. Mr. Burton, indeed, might have been expected to lean to the side of the unfortunate Queen. He is a Scotchman; and though the Scotchmen of her own day had no great love for her, those of subsequent times, and among them the descendants of the party by whom she was most bitterly opposed, have been ready to do battle in her behalf. Mr. Burton, however, has escaped the influence of the popular sentiment. With clear, lawyer-

like mind he has examined the facts, and his conviction is that the Queen cannot be acquitted. Even the vigorous pleadings of Mr. Hosack, by far the ablest champion who has appeared in defence of Mary, have failed to shake his judgment, and the opinion he pronounces as to the murder of Darnley, and the proceedings which led to the downfall of the Queen, is as decided as ever. For ourselves, we believe that had there been neither national nor religious feeling enlisted on either side, or had Mary fallen at Langside, and the responsibility of her fate rested upon her own subjects, instead of on the English Queen, there would have been no hesitation in the verdict of history upon her conduct. That long imprisonment in England intervened, time was allowed for the memory of her crimes to die out, while at the same time the reports of her heroic endurance excited great sympathy on her behalf, and so it came to pass that her execution was regarded as an act of political and religious martyrdom by a large party in her own time, and has been accepted as such subsequently by numbers whose feeling is nothing better than a mere sentiment, prompted by a dislike to Elizabeth, and a compassion for the rival who is supposed to have fallen a victim to her jealousy. This has been strengthened by the way in which writers on both sides have continually confused two questions—Mary's original guilt on the one hand and the justice of her execution on the other. Mary may be convicted of all the charges that were brought against her by the Confederate Lords, and they may have been justified in deposing one who had degraded the Royalty of Scotland by murder and adultery, and yet it does not follow that Elizabeth was justified in executing her after seventeen years spent in wearisome captivity had elapsed. The two points are connected, indeed, inasmuch as it was Mary's crime which placed her in the power of her Royal sister; but if Elizabeth is to be vindicated it must be in some other way besides the establishment of Mary's share in the tragedy of Kirk-of-Field. Yet the two questions have been continually confounded, and the result has been increased difficulty in the formation of a true judgment. Mr. Burton is of too judicial a temper to allow himself to be thus misled. He has studied the whole subject carefully in its separate parts, as well as in their relations to each other and the whole; has carefully examined each separate circumstance in the narrative, and has produced a work which we predict will be accepted as of the highest authority. We do not say that it will convert all the adherents of Mary of Scots or prevent them from giving to the world new defences of her reign, but it will certainly render their work much more difficult. To meet the calm deliberate statements in which there is not a sign of passion nor an element of exaggeration, upon it will need to be very sure of his ground. Mr. Burton is nowhere influenced by regard to the artistic effect of his work. The whole story has too often been treated as a great drama in which the passions of two rival queens are the contending powers, and the tendency has been to accommodate events to this view, to preserve the dramatic unities in the delineation of character, and to throw around the development of the plot as much of romantic interest as possible. Mr. Burton is as far as possible removed from this. Some will complain that a narrative which is generally made so exciting in his hands becomes comparatively tame; but this is one of its great merits. Pictures of the beautiful and fascinating Queen, with all the sleekness of the panther and all its cruelty too, or of the suffering heroine who has to contend against the cruel foes that surround her path, the cruellest of all being the envious cousin who cannot forgive her for her beauty, and who is continually plotting her overthrow, are all well enough for the pages of romance, but are quite out of place in the sober narrations of history. There are many more attractive books on the period. It is the special merit of Mr. Burton's that it is impartial, accurate, and reliable.

The three volumes which are before us complete the work, bringing it down to the Revolution, the period at which Mr. Burton's earlier book on Scottish history, in which he treats of the period from the Revolution to the extinction of the last Jacobite conspiracy, begins. Of them one volume, and a considerable part of another, are occupied with the life of Mary from her abdication of the Crown, and we know no work in which the characters of the principal actors are more fairly estimated, or the course of events more carefully traced. Mr. Burton has no heroes. Perhaps the "good Regent" Murray has as much of his admiration and sympathy as any of the prominent characters; but he is far from holding him up as a faultless

man. We have but to contrast the eloquent and striking passage in which Mr. Froude relates the tragedy of his death and sums up the judgment of his character with the brief and unimpassioned record which Mr. Burton gives, to understand the difference between the two men, and the manner in which they have treated history. Yet this moderation by no means indicates an inability fully to appreciate his great merits. On the contrary, we are disposed to think that the estimate of Murray's real position, and of the services he rendered to the country, is quite as high, and that the impression produced in his favour is all the stronger because of the manner in which the case is stated. There is no attempt to represent all his proceedings as blameless, but it is very truly said, in justice to him, that "his position might have given him opportunities for acts more unscrupulous than any committed by him." We have only to place him by the side of such men as Lethington or Morton to perceive his real worth, as we have only to suppose any of them possessed of the advantages which belonged to him, to understand how different the course of events might have been if he had been less under the influence of principle. There are many who can never forgive him his conduct to his sister, but his one fault in the estimate of John Knox was (as Mr. Burton reminds us) his excess of lenity to her. On the whole we may fully agree in the verdict here pronounced—"His policy was as thoroughly constitutional as that of the English statesmen who promoted the Revolution of 1688 and the Hanover succession. The difficulties in the way of a firm order of government, and the temptations to turn to selfish ends these difficulties, were both great—but he bid fair to conquer the one, and he left no sign that he would yield to the other."

For Kirkcaldy of Grange, who played a leading part in the last effort made by Mary's party in Scotland, our author shows less respect than is generally accorded to him. He was a traitor to the cause he had espoused, and the trust which, in implicit reliance upon his unstained and unassailable loyalty, had been committed to him; and Mr. Burton does not see that the guilt of his treason was less dishonourable because it was committed on behalf of Mary. "Had he been entrusted with his charge by the Queen's party, and then held it for the enemy, there would have been very little scruple in heaping terms of infamy upon his memory; but as it was to Queen Mary that he handed over the charge entrusted to him by the new Government, the transaction tended to increase his fame as a loyal and chivalrous soldier." It is not Mr. Burton's habit to heap terms of infamy on any one, but he has no disposition thus to call evil good. Referring to the report that Kirkcaldy had intended, in the fierceness of his zeal for his new friends, to have sacrificed his old ally, John Knox, he asks with pointed sarcasm:—"Would the character for chivalrous faith which Grange holds in many eyes have covered this also, as it covered the rest?" That character could never have been won in face of the facts, but for the strong prejudice which has so largely coloured the judgments of numbers of the men of that period.

In treating of the relations of Mary and Elizabeth Mr. Burton is singularly wise and dispassionate. The clue to the whole of the subsequent history is in a fact given by him when writing of Mary after her flight to England, he says that her fate had made her an "incarnate peril." Those who write about the protracted contest as though it were a terrible duel between two Princesses influenced mainly by female passions simply show that their views of history have been shaped by sentiment and not by facts. It was the misfortune of the English Ministers that the illustrious captive, who had thrown herself into their hands, was a perpetual source of danger, and for them her presence made "a reign of terror in the true sense of the term—that terror of danger from without which drives men to harsh and cruel remedies within." It is easy to expose Elizabeth's weakness, to prove that she was not free from the influence of vanity, to taunt her with want of generosity to one on whom misfortune had fallen so heavily, to point out the inconsistency and vacillation of her proceedings, but the question remains, after all, how was she to have dealt with a prisoner, of whom it is well said here—"It was dangerous alike to do anything with her or to leave anything undone?" To assert that generosity should have triumphed over every consideration of wise policy, and that she should have put her own crown and life in peril by setting her free, is easy, but we know of no ruler in the whole course of history who would have been at all likely to carry out such a view. Whether such a procedure could have been justified by a proper regard to the interests of the people who had placed Elizabeth on the throne, and whose

* *The History of Scotland.* From Agricola's Invasion to the Revolution of 1688. By J. H. BURTON. Vols. 5, 6, 7. (Edinburgh and London: W. Blackwood and Sons.)

peace and liberty were dependent on the repression of the party of whom Mary was the hope, is a question far too practical for these romantic eulogists of Mary to consider. We can understand their feelings, we can believe that the nobler would eventually have proved the wiser course; but we assert that no statesmen the world has known would have been likely to take a different course from that advised by the counsellors of Elizabeth. The whole case as between the Queens has not often been stated with more clearness and point than in the following passages:—

"The long succession of public and secret events which led to the bloody end, when laid open in full before us, reveal in their larger features two women engaged in a struggle in which one or the other must fall. They were driven to this by a destiny not entirely the making of either. Had Elizabeth sent the fugitive back to her own country, it would have been sending her to the scaffold. Had Queen Mary abandoned the world and its politics, the opportunity might have been given for her abiding in England in a retirement becoming a fallen monarch. From the moment, however, when she set foot on English soil, she was so beset by dreams of superseding her rival, that she could not conceal them from those around. She never ratified the treaty which withdrew her claim on the Crown of England. With that claim she bargained among foreign potentates, like a spendthrift trying to raise money on his prospects of succession, and finally she left it as a legacy to Philip of Spain. If she was not guilty of any share in the conspiracies of Babington and others, no one was ever the victim of such unfortunate conjunctions of circumstances. It was hard, no doubt, but so it was, that one or the other must die. Pressure from without made it impossible that they should spare each other. To Queen Elizabeth the appeals were not only for her own life, but the throne of her ancestors, the freedom of England, and the safety of the Protestant Church. A beautiful queen, a captive and a victim to a cruel rival, was the cynosure of all chivalry, for whom there would be endless conspiracies. Her cause, too, was that of the holy Church which had adopted and passed the injunction that she must be counted innocent. That she should die seemed the hard doom of fate, as in some Greek tragedy when a sacrifice must be made to appease the angry gods, and save a people from ruin. In the manner in which each acted her part before the world there was a powerful contrast. For the clumsy, cunning, and brazen mendacity with which her triumphant rival concluded the scene, no one has any palliation. Apart from all higher questions of truth and honesty, it was an outrage on good taste, for it was unsuccessful. The practical appeal of 'Thou canst not say I did it' was made in vain, and even the persecution of poor Secretary Davison was wasted. One ray of goodness is there in the whole dark scene, but it is one that does not brighten up the chief actress. The courtiers came through a sore trial without substantial reproach. One then living made a monarch say, 'It is the curse of kings to be attended by slaves who take their humours for a warrant to break into the bloody house of life.' If this was a general truth of the period, Elizabeth did not find such slaves; and her unfruitful hints—hints which approach solicitation—are creditable to the honourable feeling of those about her."

There are other subjects of great interest in these volumes, which must have a separate notice at some future time.

BRIEF NOTICE.

Evening Amusements, by the Author of "Letters Everywhere," with twenty illustrations by Paul Konewka (Seeley), is what we are afraid some of its juvenile possessors will call an "awfully jolly" book. We could only describe it to our own satisfaction by transferring the frontispiece to this column. The twenty illustrations referred to in the title-page are executed after the manner of those black profile pictures which still represent to some of us all that we can learn of the outward aspect of our forefathers. Besides being skillfully drawn they are ludicrously suggestive in character, and are pleasantly corrected by the letter-press with the subject given as the title of the work.

An Editor's Tales. By ANTHONY TROLLOPE. (Strahan and Co.) These are very slight chapters, but they are also readable. Mr. Trollope writes in a genial humour, he has a fine sense of the ludicrous, and, although his narratives are not always of the comic order, there is that in most of them which would sooner move to laughter than tears. He can hardly help being graphic in his description of persons and of situations, and hence whatever he writes possesses an interest which it owes almost entirely to the characteristic style of the writer.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Court remains at Osborne, notwithstanding the hints of the *Times*.

The Prince of Wales and suite embarked at Great Grimsby on Saturday, en route for Copenhagen, to join the Princess of Wales. His arrival at Elsinore is telegraphed.

Prince Arthur, who has arrived home, has been on a visit to the Queen at Osborne.

All the Cabinet Ministers, except Mr. Bright, were present at Saturday's Council.

We (*Daily News*) are glad to report that the health of Mr. Bright continues steadily to improve, and there is every reason to think that he will be able to resume his place in the House of Commons next session. Whether it will be prudent that he should add official to Parliamentary labours must remain for some time undecided. The cause

of Mr. Bright's illness—a tendency to capillary congestion of the brain—suggests caution. Mr. Bright has refrained from giving effect hitherto to his wish to resign the Presidency of the Board of Trade, in deference to the strongly-expressed wishes of his colleagues.

It is reported that another batch of baronets will shortly be created.

Mr. Carlyle has been nominated unanimously to the office of President of the London Library, in place of the late Earl of Clarendon.

The petition presented by the Conservatives at Norwich against the return of Mr. Tillet, M.P. for Norwich, will be heard before Mr. Justice Byles.

Owing to the special qualifications brought to light in her "Letters of Royal and Illustrious Ladies," Mrs. Green has taken her seat in the State Paper Office as a recognised servant of the Crown. Among piles of old parchments, with copying clerks at her call, this lady may be seen (says the *British Quarterly*) cataloguing and epitomising the important State papers of bygone centuries, a solitary woman among a staff of learned antiquaries.

The Marquis of Huntley is appointed Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen; the post vacated by Lord Camperdown on his removal to the Admiralty.

Parliament will, it is expected, be prorogued either on the 9th or 11th of next month, but most probably on the first-named day.

The Grand Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz and suite have shortened their visit to England. The Royal party returned to Mecklenburg on Saturday evening.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

M. Henri Rochefort has published a notice in the *Marseillaise* announcing that that paper is no longer to appear.

Viscount Treilhard has been appointed to the post of Minister of France at Washington, rendered vacant by the recent suicide of M. Provost Paradol.

The Maharajah of Vizianagram dedicated 20,000*l.* to the foundation of an Alfred Medical College at Allahabad, to commemorate his interview with the Duke of Edinburgh.

It is notified that the Ober-Ammergau "Passion Play" is not likely to be repeated this year, twenty-four of the performers, including Joseph Maier, who plays the principal part, having been called away to join the ranks of the Army Reserve.

From the Cape of Good Hope intelligence reaches us of further discoveries of diamonds on the Vaal, some of them very fine, and a rush was being made to the "diggins." It was believed that diamonds to the value of 100,000*l.* had been picked up by Europeans alone.

It is telegraphed from Lisbon that the Duke de Saldanha desires to leave the Cabinet. It appears certain that the Government made some advances to Dom Fernando with the view of influencing him to accept the Spanish Crown. The Dom, notwithstanding this, abided by his refusal.

ENGLISH VOLUNTEER NURSES FOR THE PRUSSIAN WOUNDED.—Several ladies are about to leave London to nurse the sick and wounded at the seat of war,—Prussians and French indifferently,—under the auspices of the Order of St. John, and of the Société de Secours de Blessés Militaires. Further information will be given by Capt. Burgess, 8, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, S.W.—*Victoria Magazine*.

THE BRAHMOS OF BOMBAY, Baboo Sen's sect, lately as a slight innovation, gave a dinner, inviting as one of the guests a native lawyer, who has studied in England, and there joined the Church of England. The food, says Mr. Harding, in the *Missionary Herald*, was cooked and served by Brahmans, and the solitary Christian placed at one end of the room, so far distant from the others as not to contaminate them. But the conservative Hindoos thought differently. A committee of investigation was appointed; and it was decided that host and guests had all broken caste, and could not be restored without undergoing the penance of drinking water that had been poured over an idol. They submitted to the humiliation, thus declaring that they were not ready to give up idolatry and caste, both of which they had long professed to disbelieve in.

THE MASSACRE IN CHINA.—The doubt with which the reported massacre of missionaries in China was received here and in France has been unfortunately dispelled. The Russian Government have received a telegram dated Kiachta, July 6, from which it appears that on the 21st of June the native population of Tientsin rose against the Roman Catholic missionaries, residing in that town, and murdered not only the priests and the sisters of charity, but also the French consul, his secretary, two French merchants and their wives, and two young Russians. It is supposed the latter were mistaken for French. Not content with wreaking their fury upon those unhappy persons, the mob burnt the French Consulate, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Hospital of the Sisters. It is suggested that some foolish superstition about the kidnapping of children by the missionaries is, as has been the case before in China, at the bottom of the outrage. With the exception of the two Russians, the victims are all French subjects.

Miscellaneous.

ONE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE OF THE WAR.—There is one misery arising from the present war which will fall like a thunderbolt on this country. We shall probably lose our German bands; yet, however

much we may miss them, we feel that the claims of "Fatherland" are paramount to all others, and that it would be selfish in the extreme to attempt for one moment to detain on these shores the gallant musicians who, if they frighten as many French soldiers in the field as they have frightened horses in the streets of London, will make short work of the campaign. It would be invidious to speculate as to which of these talented bodies of men will render the greatest service to their country in this hour of peril, but there is one band in particular, consisting of three boys and a man, all wearing caps with gold lace, commonly called the Marylebone nuisance, which, if placed on the left bank of the Rhine and directed "to blow out its best," even if they did not turn back the French, could not fail under any circumstances to prove a source of serious annoyance to the Emperor. We fear this invaluable reinforcement still lingers in London, notwithstanding the peremptory order it has received from the Prussian Government to return home, for on Thursday it was seen and heard in Harley-street. If this delay is caused by a kindly feeling to the inhabitants of the metropolis, who have so long hung enraptured on its notes, we can assure the musicians that their music, melancholy as it is even in days of peace, will become almost unbearable in its wild sadness when we feel that they are wanted at home even more than we want them here. Let them, therefore, like true patriots, pack up their "wind instruments" and obey the summons of the God of War.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

MR. DISRAELI ON THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.—Mr. Disraeli made a short speech on Saturday afternoon on the presentation of the testimonial to Colonel Taylor, at the Carlton Club. Mr. Henley was in the chair, and presented the testimonial. After Colonel Taylor had acknowledged the presentation Mr. Disraeli said:—"As my relations with Colonel Taylor were perhaps of a more intimate character than those which were maintained with him by any gentleman in this room, I hope it will not be considered intrusive if I say a few words upon this occasion. I am glad to have the opportunity of expressing my gratification at a time when such an appreciative tribute in connection with such important services is being rendered to Colonel Taylor. The office which Colonel Taylor occupied for so long a time is one which requires energy, combined with great judgment, perfect temper, and also complete firmness. It is the possession of these united characteristics which has enabled him, under very disadvantageous circumstances, acting with a minority of the House of Commons even when we were in office, to bring about results many of which were satisfactory, and to all of which we can look back without shame. It is some consolation to us that when Colonel Taylor found it necessary to relinquish the post he had so long filled that he did not deprive us of his advice and assistance. We all profit still by the experience he gained in the position which he filled with such great advantage to us. There is another circumstance which has tended to lessen the loss, and that is that Colonel Taylor has left as his successor a gentleman who has been trained under his eye, with whom we are all acquainted, and with whom we are glad to maintain personal friendship. Colonel Taylor displayed his discrimination in the choice of his excellent successor, Mr. Noel, who has shown how admirably qualified in every respect he is for the post he occupies."

THE WILL OF THE LATE CHARLES DICKENS has been published. We (*Daily News*) are told that it was written in blue ink, on a sheet of ordinary letter paper; that it was proved at London on the 19th inst., and that the personality was sworn under 80,000*l.* It is dated the 12th of May, 1869, and there is a codicil, giving to his son Charles his share and interest in *All the Year Round*, dated as late as the 2nd of June in the present year, only a week before his death. It was stated some time ago that the technical parts of the will had been drafted for Mr. Dickens by his legal advisers, but the general composition of it bears in every line the touch of the testator's hand. The latter, or non-technical, portion is the work of the writer alone. He leaves 1,000*l.* to Miss Ternan, nineteen guineas to each of his servants who have been with him one year, 1,000*l.* to his daughter Mary, as well as an annuity of 300*l.* so long as she remains unmarried; 8,000*l.*, his jewellery, "all the little familiar objects" from his writing-table and room, all his private papers, and "his grateful blessing" to his dear sister-in-law, Georgina Hogarth, whom he speaks of "as the best and truest friend man ever had." He leaves his wife the interest of 8,000*l.* during her life, appointing his sons Charles and Henry trustees of the fund; and, with the exception of his MSS., which he gives and bequeaths to his "dear and trusty friend" John Forster, he bequeaths the residue of all his real and personal estate, including his copyrights, to the said Georgina Hogarth and John Forster, in trust for his children. He further appoints them the guardians of his children and the executors of his will. In what may be called the supplemental portion of the will, Mr. Dickens solemnly enjoins his dear children always to remember how much they owe to Miss Hogarth, records the fact that he allowed his wife since "their separation by consent" 600*l.* a year, and directs that he shall be buried in an inexpensive, unostentatious, and strictly private manner, that no public announcement be made of the time or place of burial, that "at the utmost not more than three plain mourning coaches" be employed, and that those who attend the funeral wear no scarf, cloak, black bow, long hatband, or "other such revolting absurdity." He also directs that his name be inscribed in plain English letters on his tomb, without

the addition of "Mr." or "Esquire." The closing sentences of the will were quoted by Dean Stanley immediately after the death of Mr. Dickens, and will be fresh in the memory of every one.

THE DENHAM MURDER TRIAL occupied the whole day on Friday at the Aylesbury Assizes. The prisoner was indicted in the name of John Jones. Mr. O'Malley and Mr. Metcalfe were the prosecuting counsel, and Mr. Abdy, by request of the court, defended the prisoner. It is hardly necessary to recapitulate the facts of this shocking case. On Monday, the 23rd of May, in consequence of the inmates of Mr. Marshall's house at Denham not making their appearance as usual in the morning, an entrance was effected by the window and a policeman immediately sent for, who, on looking through the rooms, discovered no less than seven bodies dead, and, from the signs and marks about them, apparently murdered with revolting cruelty. Of the bodies one was that of an old woman, the grandmother; the others were those of her son and his wife, three children, and a young woman, the sister of Mr. Marshall. Suspicion having been directed to the prisoner, he was arrested at Reading on Tuesday, the 24th of May, and when so arrested it was ascertained that he was wearing clothes that were identified as having belonged to Mr. Marshall, while clothes that were spoken to as having been worn by the prisoner were found in Mr. Marshall's house. The whole sad story was told by a number of witnesses, Superintendent Dunham, of the Bucks Constabulary, being the principal. For the defence, Mr. Abdy, after begging the jury to dismiss from their minds, as far as they were able to do so, any previous impressions they might have had in a case which had excited the attention of the public far and wide, and had been commented on by the press, drew their attention to what, in his opinion, were the weak points of the case for the prosecution—first, that there was no evidence whatever of the prisoner being seen near the place about the time when the murder was committed; secondly, that the only evidence of his identity with the man who it was said was seen to be coming out of Mr. Marshall's premises on the morning of the murder was comparatively slight, resting only on the belief of a woman, Mrs. Simpson, who could not speak positively, even though, according to her story, she had full opportunity of noticing his features and clothes; thirdly, that the evidence which was adduced for the purpose of connecting him with the clothes which were found in Mr. Marshall's house was not so strong and satisfactory as to be convincing; and, lastly, that the calm and collected manner and demeanour of the prisoner were such as to lead to the conclusion that he could not have been concerned in the commission of a crime so great and so fearful. The jury found the prisoner guilty without leaving their box, and Mr. Baron Channell, assuming the black cap, said:—"John Jones, you have been convicted, after a careful and impartial trial, with the dreadful offence charged against you. The whole of the evidence pointed to you as the murderer; and, though I carefully weighed all the points in your favour, I could come to no other conclusion. The law will be more merciful to you than you were to those poor creatures, as you will have time to make your peace with God and obtain pardon for those most heinous crimes." At the conclusion of the sentence the prisoner stepped down, saying in a jaunty manner, "Thank you, sir." Hisses followed the prisoner, who was promptly removed. At the end of the case the learned judge called for, and passed a high eulogium on, Superintendent Dunham, directing the authorities of the county to give him a reward of £10.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

COOTE.—July 22, at Priore House, Tynemouth, Northumberland, the wife of Arthur Coote, of a daughter.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, July 20.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued £34,546,550 Government Debt £11,015,100
Other Securities .. 3,984,900
Gold Coin & Bullion 19,546,550

£34,546,550

£34,546,550

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital £14,553,000 Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity) £12,507,779
Reserve .. 5,885,000 Public Deposits .. 5,670,824 Other Securities .. 20,172,891
Other Deposits .. 19,808,675 Notes .. 10,282,105
Seven Day and other .. 439,814 Gold & Silver Coin 893,905
Bills .. £43,856,743

£43,856,743

£43,856,743

July 21, 1870.

GEORGE FORBES, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Universal Curatives.—No one should brood over infirmities or permit intolerable pain to wear away the energies without giving Holloway's remedies a fair and impartial trial. They purify and heal—two qualities requiring no comment. The Pills exercise a wonderful influence in purifying and regulating the circulation and correcting torpidity of liver and kidneys; they remove any temporary stagnation of blood, thus preventing congestion of the lungs, liver, spleen, brain, or any other organ. They act as alteratives, sedatives, or stimulants by their power over the nerves, which are the "governors" of all animal function. From the use of one or both of Holloway's restoratives, the patient will obtain relief or immunity from suffering.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, July 25.

We had a small supply of English wheat and moderate arrivals from abroad. The market to-day has been extremely

depressed, and prices unsettled. English wheat sold at a reduction of 2s. and foreign 2s. per qr. from the prices of Monday last. Flour was 1s. per sack and barrel lower. Beans and peas were each 2s. per qr. dearer. Barley is quoted 2s. to 2s. 6d. per qr. higher. Indian corn made 2s. per qr. above last week's rates. Arrivals of oats are liberal, and prices 1s. higher since this day week. Cargoes on the coast and on passage are held at a reduction of 2s. per qr. for wheat, and maize is unchanged in value.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Best and Kent ..	— to —	Gray ..	40 to 42
Red, old ..	52 56	Mane ..	44 45
Disto new ..	— —	White ..	40 44
White, old ..	48 60	Boilers ..	40 44
" new ..	50 52	Foreign, boilers ..	40 43
Foreign red ..	52 55	Rye ..	36 38
" white ..	— —	OATS—	
BARLEY—		English feed ..	25 32
English malting ..	32 36	" potato ..	29 36
Chevalier ..	40 46	Scotch feed ..	— —
Distilling ..	37 41	" potato ..	— —
Foreign ..	37 43	Irish black ..	21 26
MALT—		" white ..	23 27
Pale ..	— —	Foreign feed ..	22 28
Chevalier ..	— —	FLOUR—	
Brown ..	40 56	Town made ..	48 54
BEANS—		Country Marks ..	41 42
Ticks ..	48 44	Norfolk & Suffolk ..	36 33
Harrow ..	44 49		
Small ..	— —		
Egyptian ..	41 48		

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, July 25.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 10,171 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 10,838; in 1868, 10,723; in 1867, 10,853; and in 1866, 16,417 head. There were large arrivals of foreign stock on sale here to-day, but the supplies from our own grazing districts fell off considerably. The general quality of the beasts on sale was inferior; but choice beef being scarce, commanded very full prices. The prime animals on offer have sold at 5s. 4d. per 8lbs., and many good animals have been disposed of at 4s. 10d. per 8lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 1,250 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England 650 of various breeds; from Scotland, 14 Scots and crosses, and from Ireland 20 oxen. The number of sheep in the pens was fully up to the average. There was less activity in the demand for mutton, and prices have with difficulty been maintained. The top quotation for Southdowns and half-breeds was 5s. 6d. per 8lbs.; but this quotation has been exceptional, and 5s. per 8lbs. has been frequently accepted for good serviceable descriptions. Lambs have been inactive, the top price being 7s. per 8lbs. The calf trade was quiet, and there has not been much inquiry for pigs.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

Inf. coarse beasts	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10
Second quality	4	0	4	6	6	4	6	8
Prime large oxen	4	8	5	0	5	0	5	0
Prime 8 to 12, &c.	5	2	5	4	5	0	5	6
Coarse inf. sheep	3	4	3	8	4	6	5	4
Second quality	3	10	4	6	5	4	5	8
Pr. coarse woolled	4	8	5	2				

Buckling calves, 20s. to 26s., and quarter-old store pigs, 20s. to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, July 25.—Supplies of meat have been limited. The trade has been active, and prices have had an upward tendency.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

Inf. beef	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10
Middling ditto	4	0	4	2	4	6	4
Prime large do.	4	8	4	10	4	10	5
Do. small do.	4	10	5	0	4	8	5
Large Pork	4	0	4	4	5	8	6
Small pork	5	0	5	4			

PROVISIONS, Monday, July 25.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,974 firkins butter, and 2,921 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 23,337 packages butter, and 3,413 bales bacon. The war and the extremely hot weather caused the market to be excited last week. Irish butter advanced 10s. to 12s. per cwt., but a limited business transacted last week: the dealers not willing to pay the high prices asked in the Irish markets. Foreign met a slow sale, at 2s. to 4s. advance, best Dutch 11s. The bacon market ruled firm, and influenced by the warlike state of affairs, prices at the close of the week advanced 6s. to 8s. per cwt. Lard improved 4s. to 6s. per cwt., and held for a further advance.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, July 23.—Markets maintain their tone, and the present dry weather being favourable for getting bush and other soft fruit, we may expect a continuous and steady demand. Continental imports are heavy, and comprise all the usual varieties. Amongst flowers we have nothing different from those mentioned previously.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, July 25.—Our market remains quiet at late rates for English of last growth, but all other descriptions rule easier. Reports from our principal districts are not so satisfactory, the continued dry weather is producing a bad effect upon the light soils and indifferently cultivated gardens, and the yellow appearance on such grounds is daily increasing, giving rise to apprehensions on the part of growers that the crop cannot reach recent estimates. Latest advices from New York report no change in the market, which remains very firm, with indications of improvement. Crop reports continue unfavourable. Mid and East Kent, 7l. 0s., 9l. 5s. to 12l. 12s.; Wealds, 6l. 0s., 7l. 0s., to 8l. 0s.; Sussex, 6l. 12s., 6l. 6s., to 6l. 13s.; Bavarians, 6l. 6s., 7l. 7s. to 9l. 0s.; French, 5l. 0s., 5l. 15s., to 6l. 10s.; Americans, 4l. 5s., 5l. 5s., to 6l. 0s.; Yearlings, 1l. 10s., 2l. 10s., to 3l. 10s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, July 25.—There has been a fair supply of new potatoes on sale. The trade has been heavy at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 5,218 baskets from Rotterdam, 454 boxes Cherbourg, 80 tons 142 casks 105 cases from Barfleur, 8 baskets Boulogne. English shaws 80s. to 100s. per ton; Regents, 100s. to 120s. per ton; French, 70s. to 90s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, July 25.—All sorts of clover seed were held with firmness, and prices were nominally unaltered. Some inquiry continues to be made for good foreign qualities, but holders demand too much money for the views of buyers. English trefoil was taken off steadily at quite as high rates, from a fear of the new being discoloured by the recent rains. Canaryseed remains very firm, and fine English qualities bring high rates. White mustardseed was fully as high. Fine English rapeseed was held very high.

WOOL, Monday, July 25.—Business in English wool has been at a standstill, in consequence of the depression in the manufacturing districts. Prices have had a drooping tendency.

OIL, Monday, July 25.—There has been only a slow demand for linseed oil, and there has not been much demand for rape; other oils have been in limited request.

TALLOW, Monday, July 25.—The market has been firm. Y.C., on the spot, 46s. per cwt. Town Tallow 43s. 3d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, July 25.—Factors succeeded in realising an advance on all coal on last day's rates. Elliot, 17s.; Huttons, 15s.; Huttons South, 15s.; Huttons Lyons, 15s. 6d.;

Huttons Braddyla, 17s.; Hawthorn, 15s. 6d.; Hartlepool East, 17s. 6d.; Lambtons, 17s. 6d.; Eden Main, 16s.; Holywell Main, 17s. 6d.; Hartley's, 16s. 6d. Ships fresh arrived, 32; ships left from last day, 12; total, 44.

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